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Faculty of Environmental and Life Sciences

School of Biological sciences

**Beyond the Synapse: Exploring CSP α 's Role in Proteostasis, SNAP-25 Stability, and Cellular
Differentiation in PC12 cells**

by

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Thesis for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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Abstract

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Beyond the Synapse: Exploring CSP α 's Role in Proteostasis, SNAP-25 Stability, and Cellular Differentiation in PC12 cells

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The Cysteine String Protein alpha (CSP α) is a presynaptic co-chaperone that is essential for the maintenance of synapses and for presynaptic proteostasis. CSP α , via its interactions with the Heat shock cognate 70 (Hsc70) and the Small Glutamate Tetrapeptide repeat protein (SGT) acts to maintain the conformation of client proteins, including key regulators of exo- and endocytic reactions, SNAP-25 and Dynamin-1. CSP α is described as having “antineurodegenerative properties” and has been implicated in a number of neurodegenerative disorders, including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Huntington's, and Motor neuron disease. CSP α $-/-$ mice have a reduced life span and associated neurodegeneration and progressive loss of synapses. The CSP α $-/-$ neurons have increased levels of misfolded proteins and ubiquitination.

Increased levels of ubiquitination and ubiquitin-induced degradation of SNAP-25 have been detected in CSP α $-/-$ mice. There must be an E3 ligase responsible for the ubiquitination and associated degradation; as such, we planned to identify E3 ligases that interact with SNAP25 and have the potential to lead to its increased degradation in the absence of CSP α . As such, the first aim was to identify E3 ligases by a bioinformatics-based approach and use two biochemical approaches: a BioID proximity-dependent labelling protocol and Myc pull-down to identify potential E3 ligase-SNAP-25 interacting proteins. This approach evidenced known interactions with SNARE proteins and also showed a new interaction with E3-ligase Parkin. This interaction with SNAP-25 was independent of Parkin's E3 ligase activity, as an interaction between the Myc-BioID -SNAP-25 construct and both WT-HA-Parkin and the ligase-dead C431S-HA-Parkin was observed.

Secondly, CRISPR Cas was utilised to generate two independent CSP α -deficient PC12 cell lines, which were characterised with the aim of investigating SNAP-25-E3 ligase interactions in this context.

Before using these reagents, we observed that knockdown of CSP α led to hyperproliferation. This was associated with a loss of neurotrophin responsiveness and corresponding loss of differentiation ability and an alteration in the expression of Trk A and Trk B, the plasma membrane receptors for the neurotrophic factors NGF and BDNF. This unexpected consequence of CSP α was investigated using label-free whole-cell proteomics. This identified large-scale protein alterations between the parental and CSP α -deficient lines. The phenotypic and proteomic changes observed in the absence of CSP α provide insight into potential roles for CSP α beyond its neuronal chaperone function. They implicate an apparent critical role in cellular homeostasis that controls signalling and metabolic fluxes that regulate proliferation. My observation is consistent with an emerging nascent literature that describes clear potential for a role of this co-chaperone beyond the role of maintenance of proteostasis, supporting transmitter release in differentiated neurons.

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Research Thesis: Declaration of Authorship

Print name: Lucy Laura Scullard

Title of thesis: Beyond the Synapse: Exploring CSP α 's Role in Proteostasis, SNAP-25 Stability, and Cellular Differentiation in PC12 cells.

I declare that this thesis and the work presented in it are my own and has been generated by me as the result of my own original research.

I confirm that:

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6. Where the thesis is based on work done by myself jointly with others, I have made clear exactly what was done by others and what I have contributed myself;
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Definitions and Abbreviations

AD	Alzheimer's disease
ADHD	Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder
ADNCL	Adult neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis
ADP	Adenosine diphosphate
ALS	Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
AS	Angelman syndrome
ATP	Adenosine triphosphate
BDNF	Brain-derived neurotrophic factor
BFA	Brefeldin A
BLAST	Basic Local Alignment Search Tool
BRF	Biomedical Research Facility
BSA	Bovine serum albumin
CD3	CSP α -deficient PC12 Exon 3
CD5	CSP α -deficient PC12 Exon 5
CSF	Cerebrospinal fluid
CSP α	Cysteine string protein alpha
DIV	Days <i>in vitro</i>
DLB	Dementia with Lewy bodies
dNTPs DPBS	Deoxynucleoside triphosphates
DUBs	Dulbecco's Phosphate Buffered Saline
DYN-1	Deubiquitinases
E15	Dynamin-1
EDTA	Embryonic day 15
FDR	Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
GAPDH	False-discovery rate
GFP	Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase
GluK5-KAR	Green fluorescent protein kainite-type
GM130	glutamate receptor 5
GST	Golgi membrane 130
GTP	Glutathione S-transferase
GDP	Guanosine-5'-triphosphate
GWAS	Genome-wide association studies
HECT	Homologous to E6AP C-terminus (HECT)-type E3 ubiquitin
HEPES	(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid)
HS	House serum
HSC70	Heat shock cognate 70
HSPs	Heat shock proteins
HSP70	Heat shock protein 70
INSOL	Triton-x-100 insoluble fraction
ISR	Integrated Stress Response
KD	Knock down
KO	Knock Out
LAMP1	Lysosomal-associated membrane protein 1
LC-MS LC-3	Liquid chromatography- mass spectroscopy Microtubule-
mRNA NEB	associated protein 1A/1B-light chain 3
	Messenger Ribonucleic acid
	New England Biolabs

NEDD	Neural precursor cell expressed developmentally down-regulated protein
NGS	Next generation sequencing
np-40	nonyl phenoxypolyethoxyethanol -40
NSF	N-ethylmaleimide-sensitive fusion
MS	Mass spectroscopy
OUT	Ovarian tumour proteases
P1	Pellet 1 a nuclear pellet that is separated from a Homogenate by centrifugation
P2	Pellet 2 a crude synaptosomal fraction that contains intact plasma membrane profiles
P15	Postnatal day 15
PAM	Protospacer adject motif
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
PD	Parkinson's disease
PDL	Poly-D-lysine
PEI	Polyethylenimine
PKA	Protein kinase A
PKC	Protein kinase C
PMSF	Phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride
polyQ	Polyglutamine
PSD95	Postsynaptic density 95
PTM	Post-translational modification
pTM	Predicted template modelling
RBR	RING-IBR-RING E3 ligase family
RCFT	Rey Complex Figure Task
RCR	RING-Cys-Relay
RE	Restriction enzyme
RING	Really interesting new gene
RIPA	Radioimmunoprecipitation assay buffer
S1	Supernatant 1 suspension that remains above a pellet 1 after centrifugation
SDS	Sodium Dodecyl Sulfate
SDS PAGE	Sodium dodecyl-sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis
SGT	Small glutamine-rich tetratricopeptide repeat protein
SLM	Short linear motifs
SNAP-25	Synaptosomal-Associated Protein, 25kDa
SNARE	Soluble N-ethylmaleimide-sensitive factor attachment protein receptors
SNP	Single nucleotide polymorphisms
SOD1	Superoxide dismutases-1
TAE	Tris acetate EDTA
TBS	Tris-buffered saline
TDP-43	TAR DNA-binding protein 43
TIC	Total Ion Current
TSF	Triton-x-100 soluble fraction
UCH	Ubiquitin C-terminal hydrolases
UIM	Ubiquitin-Interacting Motif
UPR	Ubiquitin-proteasome response
UPS	Ubiquitin-proteasome system
USP	Ubiquitin-specific proteases
WT	Wildtype
α -Syn	Alpha-synuclein

Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Protein homeostasis

Protein homeostasis, or proteostasis, is the highly regulated network of processes that maintains the functional proteome. It is dependent on regulatory mechanisms that modulate the synthesis, folding, trafficking, localisation, and degradation of proteins (Sin and Nollen, 2015). Dysregulation of protein homeostasis can trigger the ubiquitin-proteasome response and autophagy, which degrades misfolded proteins, halts protein translation, and increases the pool of molecular chaperones to maintain the stability of cellular proteins (Walter and Ron, 2011). Disruption of the balance of proteostasis contributes to the pathogenesis of numerous diseases (Sharma et al., 2025).

Neurodevelopmental and neurodegenerative pathologies and diseases have an associated change in protein turnover, whilst hyper- or hypo-ubiquitination leads to protein loss or an accumulation, respectively (Zheng et al., 2016, Cheon et al., 2019). As such, understanding the regulatory mechanisms of proteostasis is critical for understanding the determinants of cellular phenotype and its underpinning of function and dysfunction (Verma et al., 2021, Heard et al., 2018).

1.2 Maintenance of synaptic structure and function

Synapses are neuronal junctions that allow the passage of an electrical or chemical signal from the presynaptic axon of one neuron to either the postsynaptic dendrite of another neuron or a target cell (e.g muscle). For signals to be transmitted, synaptic vesicles containing neurotransmitters are repeatedly used and recycled in a process termed the synaptic vesicle cycle (Heuser and Reese, 1973, Fesce et al., 1994, Chanaday et al., 2019).

Maintenance of synapses is required to keep neuronal networks signalling and the networks active throughout life. Loss of synapses are seen in the early stages of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease (AD) and Parkinson's disease (PD) (Bae and Kim, 2017). Within these diseases, it is likely that disrupted normal synaptic maintenance mechanisms are an initiator or a consequence of upstream diseases, triggering significant disease progression (Taoufik et al., 2018). Regulation of protein turnover is a critical component of synaptic function for both neuronal health and disease (Alvarez-Castelao and Schuman, 2015).

1.3 Issue of protein folding stability

Most proteins are required to adopt a defined 3D structure and remain within flexible functional states (Kulkarni et al., 2025), with the native conformational state required to carry out their function (Kim et al., 2003). The stability and 3D structure of a protein are determined by the amino acid sequence that defines intra- and intermolecular interactions (Anfinsen *et al.*, 1961; Jaenicke, 1991) and controls the kinetics and dynamics of the folding process. The folding of a protein to its native state is a balance between thermodynamic stability and flexibility, as such proteins often fail to fold to their native conformation due to factors such as errors in translation, mutations or external factors such as chemical or physical stress (Clausen et al., 2019). Un- or misfolded proteins are more susceptible to forming aggregates due to the exposure of hydrophobic regions, as observed in neurodegenerative diseases (Chiti and Dobson, 2006). Whilst some newly translated proteins can spontaneously fold, a large proportion are intrinsically disordered and require assistance to achieve their native folding state (Cooper, 2000).

1.4 Molecular chaperones and co-chaperones

Protein chaperones are essential regulators of proteostasis across all living organisms. They are involved in the mediation of folding newly synthesised peptides, refolding misfolded proteins, assembly of protein complexes and the trafficking of proteins between cellular compartments (Hartl, Bracher and Hayer-Hartl, 2011). Chaperones induce conformational changes in substrate proteins by utilising energy from ATP hydrolysis (Liberek et al., 2008). A molecular chaperone is defined as any protein that interacts with or aids the stability or functional activation of another protein but is not present in the functional structure (Hartl, 1996).

Chaperones are highly conserved between species and are essential in dealing with proteome disruptions in response to stress. Chaperones tend to operate on a wide range of substrates and within all cellular compartments (Saibil, 2013, Storey and Storey, 2023). The largest and most well-characterised group of chaperones are termed the heat-shock proteins (HSPs) due to their upregulation in aggregation-prone cellular stressed environments. These chaperones are named due to their corresponding molecular weights:

HSP40, HSP60, HSP90 and HSP100 (Zhao, Raines and Huang, 2020).

Co-chaperones act as regulators and guides for chaperones, influencing both a chaperone's interaction with its client and the client protein's folding. Co-chaperones can have chaperone activity and can bind to both another chaperone and the client simultaneously (Caplan, 2003). There are over 100 mammalian co-chaperones divided into two categories: the J-domain (Hsp70 and Hsp40)

(Zhang et al., 2023) and the tetratricopeptide repeat (TPR) proteins, which interact with Hsp70 and Hsp90 (Blatch and Lässle, 1999, Pokhrel et al., 2025).

1.4.1 Classes of molecular chaperones involved in the vesicle cycle

Chaperone proteins are a key component in the regulation of the synaptic vesicle cycle and maintenance of the functional state of synaptic proteins (Zinsmaier and Bronk, 2001). The major classes of chaperone complexes involved in the vesicle cycle are auxilin/Hsc70 and CSP α /Hsc70/SGT.

The CSP α /Hsc70/SGT chaperone complex is involved in the maintenance of SNAP-25 a SNARE protein. The SNARE protein family are essential for intracellular membrane fusion, for neurotransmitter release and vesicle transport (See Section 1.6 for further description). The SNAP/NSF complex is involved in the breakdown of the SNARE complex after fusion of synaptic vesicles, allowing the SNARES to be primed for subsequent fusion events (Littleton et al., 2001). The auxilin/Hsc70 complex is important during endocytosis in the clathrin uncoating of vesicles (Sousa and Lafer, 2015). Whilst HSC70 ATPase activity is enhanced by binding to co-chaperone CSP α and SGT, which is harnessed during the fusion step of the vesicle cycle (Tobaben et al., 2003). Chaperone complexes are essential to maintaining the correct conformation of proteins, as well as in the assembly and disassembly of complexes, which are critical for the maintenance of normal synaptic function (Gorenberg and Chandra, 2017). The function of chaperone complexes has been suggested to be dysregulated in a number of neurodegenerative disorders, which are caused by an accumulation of misfolded proteins (Roodveldt et al., 2017).

1.5 Cysteine String Protein α (CSP α)

The cysteine string protein α (CSP α) encoded by the DnaJ homolog subfamily C member 5 (DNAJC5) gene is a presynaptic co-chaperone that is essential for regulated exocytosis underpinning presynaptic proteostasis and maintenance of synapses (Figure 1.2) (Fernández-Chacón et al., 2004). CSP α contains a DNA-J domain, which is typical of heat shock-40 (HSP40) like cochaperones (Figure 1.1). CSP α is initially targeted to the surface of synaptic vesicle membranes via its palmitoylated cysteine string domain (Chamberlain and Burgoyne, 1998). The J domain of heat shock type 40 co-chaperones binds to the nucleotide-binding region of heat shock protein cognate 70 (HSC70) members (Zhang et al., 1999) and the Small glutamine-rich tetratricopeptide repeat protein (SGT) via its C-terminal domain to act as an active chaperone complex located on synaptic vesicles (Figure 1.2) (Tobaben et al., 2001). This complex formation stimulates the ATPase activity of HSC70, which is required for the chaperoning of client SNAP-25 (Chamberlain and Burgoyne, 1997).

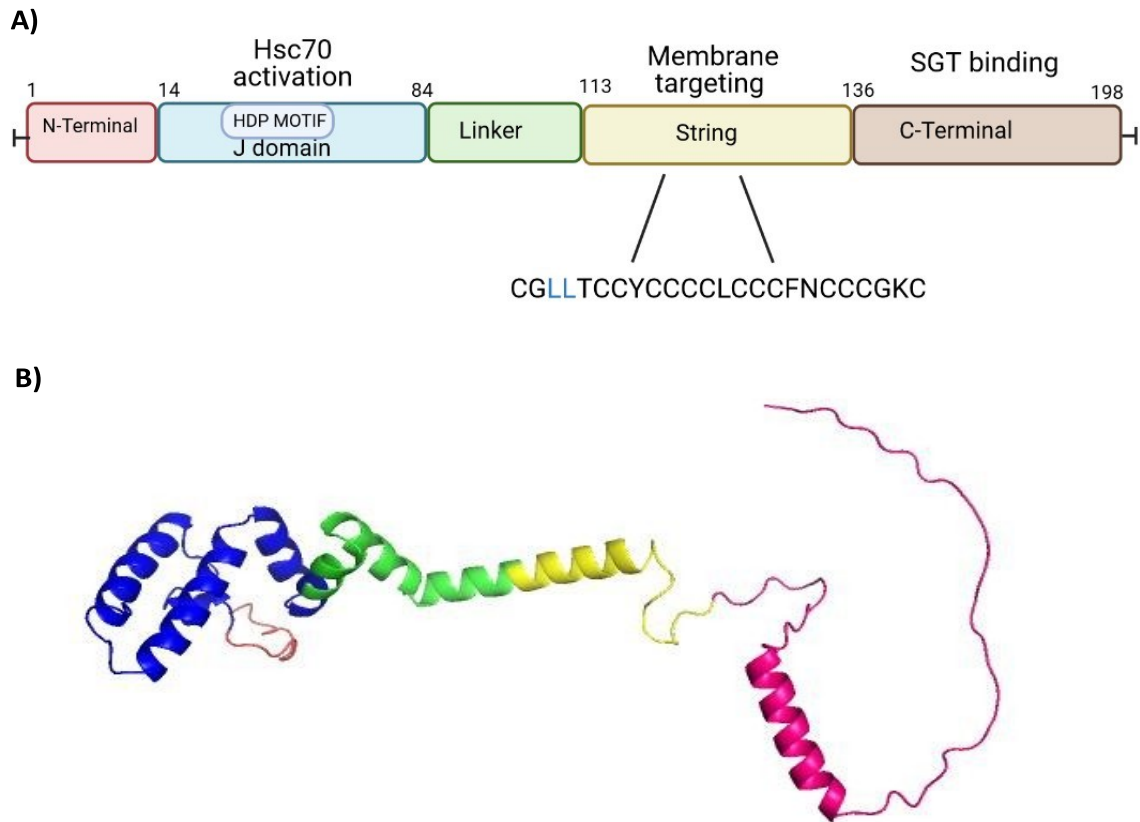


Figure 1.1: Structure of mammalian CSP α . A) Domain structure with a small variable N terminus. HSC70 binding-HPD motif of the J-domain. A hydrophobic linker domain. The cysteine-rich string domain with cysteine residues available for palmitoylation for membrane targeting, and the C-terminal domain. LL highlighted in the string domain corresponds to amino acids mutated in Adult Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis (ADNCL). B) Ribbon model of full-length human CSP α (Q9H3Z4) predicted by AlphaFold, with each domain labelled corresponding to the domain model. N-terminal domain, Red; J domain, Blue; Linker domain, Green; cysteine-string, yellow; C-terminal domain, Pink.

The cysteine string protein is named after the presence of 11 consecutive cysteine residues present in the cysteine string domain (Figure 1.1) (Zinsmaier et al., 1990). The string has a role in membrane targeting, most of the cysteine residues are post-translational modified by the addition of fatty acyl groups, which are required for membrane targeting (Gundersen, 2020) and may have a role in catalysing the fusion of membranes (Gundersen et al., 1995) or regulation of synaptotagmins at the membrane (Gundersen and Umbach, 2013). Recently, CSP has been suggested to act as a mediator of misfolding-associated protein secretion, and in micro-autophagy, re-routing proteins for disposal (Fontaine *et al.*, 2016. Deng *et al.*, 2017, Xu *et al.*, 2018).

Vertebrates have three CSP isoforms: α , β , and γ , encoded by the DNAJC5a, b and g genes (Evans et al., 2003). In mammals, CSP α is coded for by the DNAJC5a gene, and splicing of this gene leads to two CSP α species at the level of cDNA. The CSP1 cDNA encodes CSP α , and CSP2 encodes carboxyl (C)-terminally truncated CSP α , which is not normally expressed in cells (Coppola and Gundersen, 1996, Chamberlain and Burgoyne, 1996). Early work, now disputed, suggested that both the β and γ forms were expressed exclusively in the testes based on studies in mice (Fernández-Chacón et al., 2004); as such, most research in the CSP family has focused on CSP α . Data available from the human protein atlas suggests that there is a large-scale distribution of CSP α across human tissue, but there has been little work on a non-neuronal function (DNAJC5 protein expression summary - The Human Protein Atlas).

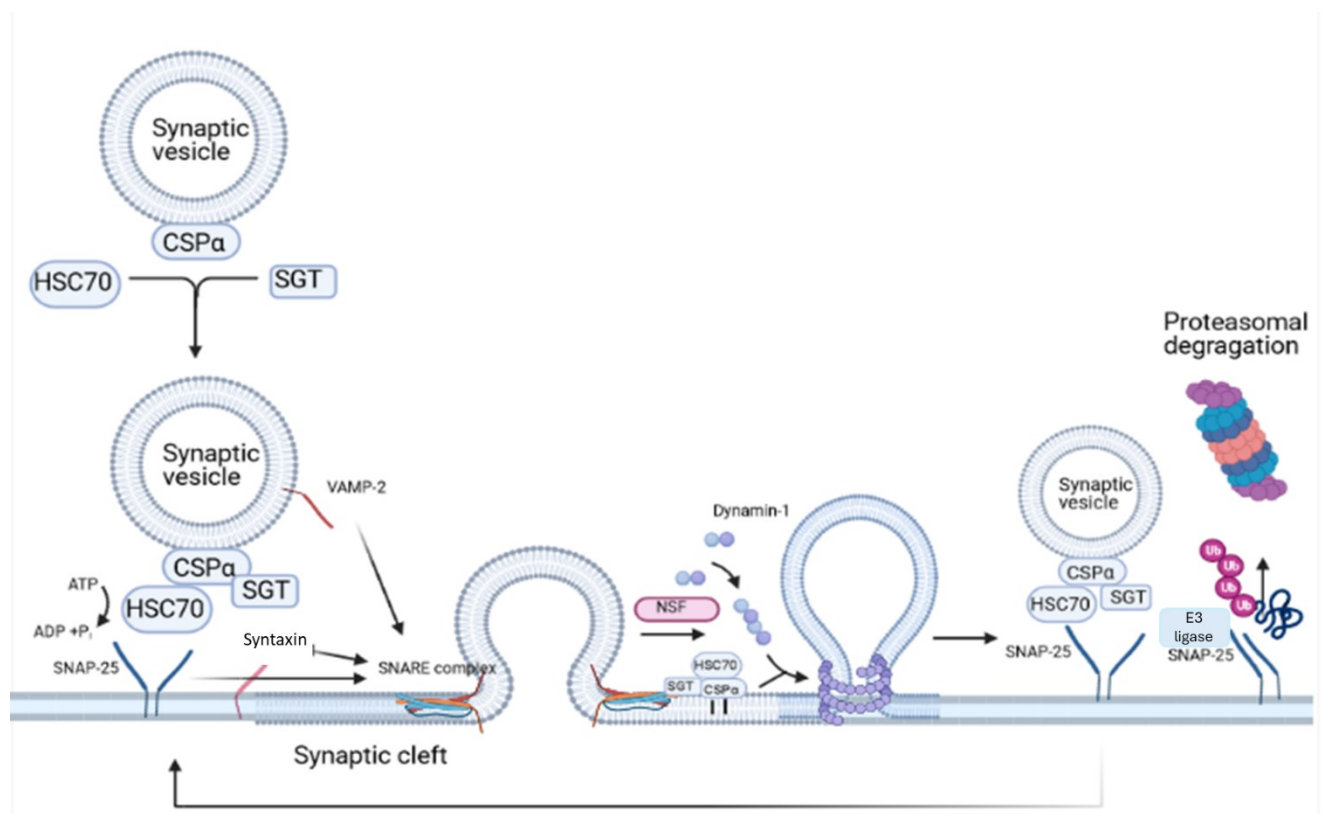


Figure 1.2: CSP α 's key players in synaptic proteostasis. SNAP-25 interacts with the HSC70 to be maintained in a conformation that is able to form SNARE complexes, whilst Dyn-1 interacts with CSP α , which facilitates Dyn-1 polymerisation. In the absence of CSP α , SNAP-25 is increasingly ubiquitinated by an unknown E3 ligase and degraded by the proteasome.

1.5.1 ATP cycle in the context of the CSP α -HSC70 chaperone complex

Through HSC70, the CSP α chaperone complex couples protein binding and ATPase activity. HSC70 recognises hydrophobic surfaces in unfolded proteins and interacts with them, leading to a conformational change in the substrate protein in parallel with the progress of HSC70 through the ATPase cycle (Figure 1.2) (Mayer and Bukau, 2005). The HSC70 ATPase cycle alternates between an ATP state with low affinity for the fast exchange rates of substrates and the ADP state with high affinity for substrates (Young, 2010). CSP α enhances the ATPase activity of HSC70 in a dose-dependent manner (Braun et al., 1996) which may lead to more efficient chaperoning and a consequential reduction in ubiquitination or aggregation of substrates (Figure 1.2).

1.5.2 CSP α mutation in humans

A dominant mutation in the DNAJC5a gene causes the human autosomal neurodegenerative condition Adult neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis (ADNCL) characterised by progressive neuronal dysfunction and reduction in life expectancy (Naseri, Sharma, and Velinov, 2021). ADNCL is primarily associated with two mutations (L115R and L116 Δ) within CSP α 's string domain (Figure 1.1), which disrupt CSP α palmitoylation and consequently its ability to target membranes (Nosková et al., 2011). In mouse models, it has been shown that whilst the mutations L115R and L116 Δ led to lipofuscinosis, neither conventional or conditional knockout mice lacking CSP α /DNAJC5 exhibited any signs of it (López-Begines et al., 2025).

1.5.3 CSP α in neurodegeneration

CSP α $-/-$ mouse neurons progressively develop a neurodegenerative phenotype, with highly active synapses affected more severely (Burgoyne and Morgan, 2015) this is characterised by defective neuron-muscular junctions with post-synaptic terminals being less mature and being occupied by fewer presynaptic nerve branches in CSP α $-/-$ mice than in litter mate controls which is suggested to be a result of degradation rather than a lack of development (Fernández-Chacón et al, 2004).

Whilst the number of pre-synaptic active zones have been shown to not be significantly different between CSP α $+/+$ and $-/-$. In CSP α $-/-$ 42% of terminals were shown to contain vacuoles and/or multilamellar bodies at all ages which are markers of both degeneration of synapses and a defect in protein processing, degradation and trafficking (Fernández-Chacón et al, 2004).

CSP α has also been investigated and implicated in several human neurodegenerative conditions (Burgoyne and Morgan, 2015), including in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease, where its reduction contributes to synapse loss (Tiwari et al., 2015, Sharma et al., 2012, Rupawala et al., 2022

), frontotemporal dementias and Lewy body disease in the presence of amyloid plaques (Rupawala et al., 2022), Parkinson's disease (Sharma et al., 2012, Chandra et al., 2005a, Caló, et al., 2021), Huntington's disease (Miller et al., 2003, Swayne, Beck and Braun, 2006, Shirasaki et al., 2012) and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (Coyne et al., 2017).

1.5.4 CSP α in animal models

Invertebrates have a single CSP gene, in contrast to the three vertebrate genes (Evans, Morgan and Burgoyne, 2003). In *Drosophila*, three splice variants are derived from a single CSP gene. The consequences of CSP null mutants have different effects in different animal models (Table 1.1). In CSP α *-/-* mice and *Drosophila*, there is evidence of synaptic loss that is activity-dependent. This means that neuronal loss is thought to be more marked in frequently firing neurons as exemplified by parvalbumin GABAergic neurons (Schmitz et al., 2006, García-Junco-Clemente et al., 2010, Leal et al., 2023, López-Begines et al., 2025).

In *Drosophila*, CSP α is essential for synaptic maintenance, and a knockout leads to temperature-sensitive paralysis and a shortened life span. In *C. elegans* some studies have shown there is a mild or no phenotype to a knockout of homologue *DNJ-14*. This may be because *Drosophila* have a more complex and active nervous system in comparison to *C. elegans* (Zheng et al., 2018, Kapulkin et al., 2005).

Table 1.1: CSP α -/- models: Genetic disruption of CSP in distinct animal models, knockout phenotypes, genes expressed in the wildtype model and the reduction seen in the absence of the CSP gene.

Model	Phenotype	CSP α gene/protein	Reduction in life span
<i>Drosophila melanogaster</i>	Shaking, spastic jumping, temperature-sensitive paralysis (Zinsmaier et al., 1990).	Single CSP gene, with three splice variants	Only 4% of mutant flies survive to adulthood (Umbach et al., 1994).
<i>C. elegans</i>	The <i>C. elegans</i> CSP homologue, <i>dnj-14</i> , has been implicated in an impairment in synaptic function. <i>Dnj-14</i> is expressed in various non-neuronal tissues, including the intestine, pharynx, spermathecae, and vulva/uterus (Barker et al., 2024)	Single CSP gene	The mean life span of <i>dnj-14 (ok237)</i> deletion mutation of the whole <i>dnj-14</i> gene and into the first exon of a neighbour gene <i>glit-1</i> is 13.3 days, compared to 18.7 days for wild-type N2 strains (Kashyap et al., 2014). Another study focusing on the mutation <i>tm3223</i> , which disrupts the just <i>dnj-14</i> gene, observed no reduction in lifespan or any deficits in neuromuscular-dependent behaviour in ageing of <i>dnj-14</i> mutant worms (Mulcahy et al., 2019) A third study produced a homozygous <i>dnj-14</i> null which have significantly shorter lifespans of 12.95 days compared with N2 controls, 17.16 days (Barker, Morgan and Barclay, 2023)
Mice	CSP α -/- pups resemble CSP α +/- and +/+ until 2 weeks after birth. Impairment of synaptic transmission leading to severe motor and sensory impairments, causing paralysis, blindness and premature death (Schmitz et al., 2006) (García-Junco-Clemente et al., 2010).	3 DNJC5 genes α , β and γ encodes α , β , and γ . CSP α is the most widely expressed of the three and is expressed in most neurons.	CSP α -/- survive no more than 80 days (Fernández-Chacón et al., 2004).

1.5.5 Known CSP α interactors and clients

CSP α has a role in membrane trafficking and protein folding (Evans, Morgan and Burgoyne, 2003). Both SNAP-25 (Synaptosomal-Associated Protein, 25 kDa) and Dynamin-1 are clients of the CSP α -Hsc70 chaperone complex (Figure 1.2). To date, Dynamin-1 is the only protein to be identified as a

client of the CSP α -Hsc70 chaperone complex which directly binds to CSP α , as there is still debate over whether SNAP-25 interacts with the complex via CSP α or HSC70 (Figure 1.2) (Chandra et al., 2005; Y.-Q. Zhang et al., 2012).

1.5.6 Dyn-1 is a client of the CSP α chaperone complex

Dyn-1 is an endocytic GTPase involved in synaptic vesicle endocytosis (Figure 1.2). Zhang et al suggested that the CSP α -HSC70 complex was involved in the oligomerisation of Dyn-1 required for endocytosis of synaptic vesicles (Y.-Q. Zhang et al., 2012) due to a reduction of higher order Dyn-1 species but not in Dyn-1 monomers in CSP α $-/-$. The change in oligomerisation but not mono dynamin expression suggests that CSP α facilitates self assembly of Dyn-1 by switching its conformation, but does not affect total levels of Dyn-1.

Dyn-1 isn't increasingly ubiquitinated or aggregating in CSP α $-/-$ (Y.-Q. Zhang et al., 2012).

Dynamin-1 heterozygous mice have a total reduction of about 50% in Dyn-1 expression. Yet, are observed to be phenotypically normal and display no defects with synaptic vesicle endocytosis (Ferguson et al., 2007). Leading to the suggestion that the dysfunction observed in CSP α $-/-$ is unlikely to be via its regulation of Dyn-1.

1.5.7 SNAP-25 is a client of the CSP α chaperone complex

SNAP-25 is a SNARE protein (soluble N-ethylmaleimide-sensitive factor attachment protein receptors) (See Section 1.6) located on the synaptic plasma membrane required for presynaptic transmitter release (Gonzalo et al., 1999). SNAP-25 has been identified as a client of the CSP α complex (Figure 1.2) based on the observed increase in ubiquitination and protein loss in the absence of CSP α (Sharma et al., 2011).

Deletion of CSP α leads to the formation of an abnormal conformer of SNAP-25, which is ubiquitinated and degraded by the proteasome, leading to a ~50% reduction of SNAP-25 levels (Chandra et al., 2005b). This leads to a reduction in its competency to form SNARE complexes (Sharma et al., 2011).

Inhibiting the proteasome with epoxomicin and lactacystin (10 μ M) increases levels of SNAP-25 and subsequently SNARE complexes by 200% in CSP α $-/-$ mouse cortical neurons. CSP α $-/-$ mice treated with proteasome inhibitors showed the alleviation of the symptoms of neurodegeneration, reversal of the impairment of the SNARE complex and increasing median life spans by an extra 10 days with lactacystin and 15.5 days with epoxomicin (Sharma, Burré and Südhof, 2012), suggesting that a key component of the CSP α $-/-$ phenotype is dysregulated proteostasis.

1.5.8 Proteins affected by a lack of CSP α

The expression of additional proteins is affected by a loss of CSP α (Table 1.2). In an unbiased quantitative comparison of the synaptic proteome of CSP α +/+ vs -/- mouse synaptosomes, 37 proteins were found to be affected by a loss of CSP α ; these proteins were mostly presynaptic, chaperones or involved in exocytic, endocytic, cytoskeletal or synaptic signalling pathways (see Table 1.2) (Zhang et al., 2012).

Table 1.2: Proteins with decreased expression levels in synapses from CSP α knock-out mice compared to wild type, identified either by DIGE or iTRAQ at P28, adapted from (Zhang et al., 2012)

Protein	Fold change	Fraction	Role
Chaperones			
CSP α	-4.18	Vesicle/ membrane	Regulation of the synaptic vesicle cycle and chaperonemediated protein folding
HSP90 (inducible and constitutive)	-1.80	Cytosol	Chaperone protein
Hsp70-5/GRP78	-1.78	Membrane/ Cytosol	Glucose-regulated protein, UPR regulator
Hsp70	-1.67	Vesicle/Membrane/Cytosol	ATPase protein chaperone
Hsp 105/110	-1.71	Cytosol	ATPase protein chaperone
HOP	-1.54	Cytosol	Hsp70-Hsp90 Organizing Protein
Hsp70-4 like	-1.47	Cytosol	ATPase protein chaperone
Hip	-1.40	Cytosol	Hsc70 interacting protein
Chaperonin TriC	-1.44	Cytosol	ATPase protein chaperone
Exocytosis			
Snap-25b	-3.26	Vesicle/Membrane/Cytosol	SNARE complex
Calcium channel β 4	-1.64	Membrane	Calcium transmembrane transport
NSF	-2.32	Membrane	Disassembly of SNARE complexes
Complexin 1	-1.46	Cytosol	SNARE binding protein
Endocytosis			

Dynamin 1	-2.44	Vesicle/Membrane	GTPase severs membranes during endocytosis
Necap 1	-1.61	Vesicle	Role in clathrin-mediated endocytosis
Cytoskeletal			
Crmp3	-2.34	Vesicle	Axon guidance, neuronal growth cone collapse and cell migration
Septin 3	-2.20	Vesicle	GTPase required for cytokinesis
Septin 5	-1.97	Vesicle/Membrane	Nucleotide binding protein, regulate cytoskeletal organization
Septin 7	-1.90	Vesicle	Filament-forming cytoskeletal GTPase, organization of actin cytoskeleton
Septin 6	-1.64	Vesicle	Cytokinesis
BASP1	-1.50	Vesicle	Transcription corepressor
Dpysl2	-1.41	Cytosol	Semaphorin signal transduction pathway, involved in growth cone collapse in neural development
Signalling			
Diazepam binding inhibitor	-2.00	Vesicle	Lipid metabolism
Adenylate kinase 1	-1.94	Vesicle	Kinase involved in adenine nucleotide metabolism
Protein phosphatase 1c	-1.68	Vesicle	Ubiquitous serine/threonine phosphatase
PAFacetylhydrolase IB α	-1.60	Vesicle	Subunit of platelet-activating factor acetylhydrolase.
Visinin-like	-1.47	Cytosol	Neuronal calcium sensor protein
Rabconnectin 3 β	-1.46	Cytosol	Forms the beta subunit of rabconnectin-3 regulator of Rab3 small G proteins involved in calcium dependant exocytosis of neurotransmitters

ARF-GEP	-1.42	Cytosol	Role in Arf6 signalling and Endocytosis
Other proteins			
Sec24b	-2.44	Vesicle	Vesicle trafficking, cargo binding protein involved in transport of secretory proteins from ER to golgi
PSD-95	-1.67	Vesicle	Membrane-associated guanylate kinase, component of scaffold for the clustering of receptors, ion channels, and associated signalling proteins at post synapse.
Proteolipid protein 1	-1.91	Membrane	Component of myelin
Myelin basic protein	-1.68	Membrane	Constituent of myelin sheath
Dynein light chain 2	-1.57	Vesicle	Cytoskeletal binding protein involved in motor activity
α -Synuclein	-1.49	Vesicle	Selective Inhibition of phospholipase D2
β -Synuclein	-1.43	Cytosol	Selective Inhibition of phospholipase D2

This investigation (Table 1.2) was carried out at P28, which is after the age where CSP α -/- resemble CSP α +/+. Two methods were used to detect changes: DIGE (2-D fluorescence Difference Gel Electrophoresis) and iTRAQ (Isobaric Tag for Relative and Absolute Quantitation), but many proteins were only detected by one of the methods used. Proteins with changes less than 40% were disregarded, leading to the potential that alterations were either missed due to the detection methods or due to the strict cutoff.

1.5.9 Additional non-client- chaperone role of CSP α in neuronal cells

In addition to CSP α acting as a chaperone for its client proteins (Section 1.5.5), CSP α has a number of other roles. CSP α is involved in Misfolded-Associated Protein secretion (MAPS) and endosomal uptake of misfolded protein, which promotes the unconventional secretion of misfolded cytosolic proteins such as α -synuclein, tau and TDP-43 through late endosomes and lysosomes (Almeida et al., 2023). This is not facilitated through CSP α 's classical client chaperoning pathway. But in the case of MAPs via CSP α -associated to membranes proximal to the late endosomes and lysosomes allowing

for CSP α to facilitate the secretion of misfolded proteins (Xu et al., 2018b) and endosomal-associated CSP α , promoting ESCRT dependent microautophagy (Lee et al., 2023) (Figure 1.3).

CSP α influences calcium homeostasis via interaction with voltage-gated P/Q and N-type calcium channels, which may affect the function and localisation of these channels, influencing the calcium influx during synaptic activity (Magga et al., 2000) (Figure 1.3).

CSP α also interacts with G α s proteins localised on secretory vesicles, leading to the suggestion that CSP α may regulate G protein signalling (Magga et al., 2000, Bai et al., 2007) CSP α modulates G protein function by targeting the inactive GDP-bound form of G α (s) and promoting activating GDP/GTP exchange, leading to the termination of G Protein signalling (Natochin et al., 2005) (Figure 1.3).

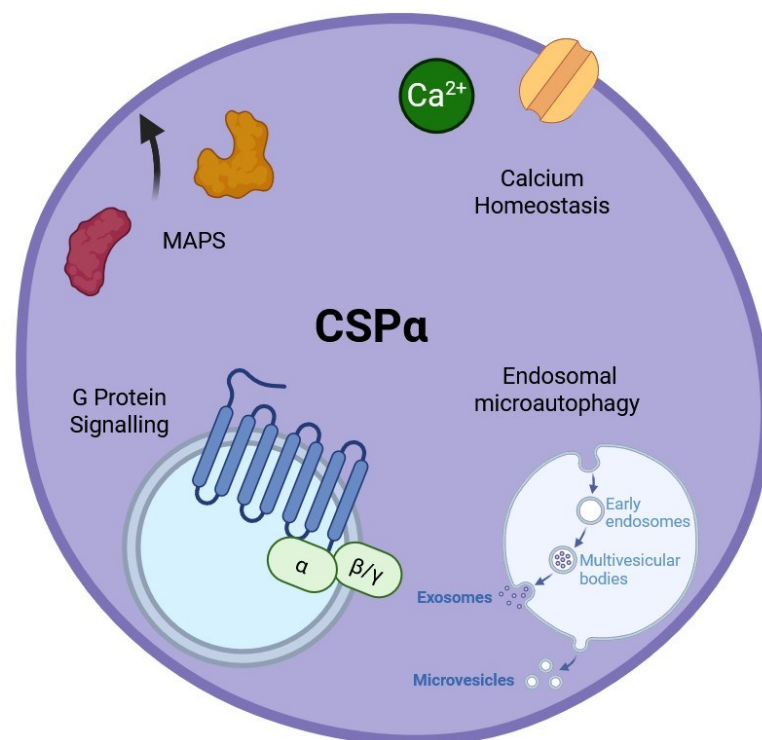


Figure 1.3: CSP α non-client- chaperone role of in neuronal cells, CSP α has been evidenced to be involved in Misfolded-Associated Protein secretion (MAPS), endosomal uptake of misfolded protein, regulation of calcium homeostasis via G-protein signalling and Endosomal microautophagy.

1.5.10 Effects of CSP α in non-neuronal cellular models

The majority of work undertaken on CSP α has been done in neuronal post-mitotic cells. Emerging work suggests that CSP α may have alternative roles and functions in non-neuronal cells in a cell-type specific manner (Table 1.3).

Table 1.3: **Phenotype of CSP α loss in non-neuronal cell models**

Cell line or model	Effect of a loss of CSP α	Reference
Mouse embryonic hepatic cell BNL cl.2	Inhibition of cell viability in a dose dependent manner	(Kang et al., 2008)
Glial cells: Astrocytes, Microglia, Oligodendrocytes, endothelial cells, and vascular-associated cells.	Transcriptional alterations Effect on the regulation of autophagy	(Wang et al., 2024)
Red blood cell, leukocyte, and megakaryocyte.	Role in platelet secretion, regulation of biogenesis. decrease in dense- and α -granule release without affecting levels of SNAP-25/23	(Smith et al., 2025)
RGL neural stem cells	Hypo-proliferation and depletion of neural stem cell pool via regulation of proliferation via hyperactivation of mTOR signalling	(Nieto-González et al., 2019)

Recent work undertaken in neuronal stem cells has suggested that an absence of CSP α can lead to hyperproliferation. Nieto-González et al found that mouse CSP α knockout hippocampal radial glia-like (RGL) neural stem cells, postnatally, lose quiescence and experience a period of increased proliferation, which leads to a depletion of the radial glial pool. Work in culture led to the identification that the absence of CSP α led to hyperactivation of the mechanistic target of rapamycin (mTOR) signalling pathway, causing the neurogenesis deregulation observed (Nieto-González et al., 2019).

CSP α has recently been identified as being required for platelet secretion, loss of CSP α in mice led to significant bleeding and affected the bone marrow progenitor cells leading to a reduction in red blood cell, leukocyte, and megakaryocyte numbers suggested to be due to an alteration in both their biogenesis and function in response to the loss of CSP α (Smith et al., 2025). Nieto-González et al and Smith et al suggest that CSP α may also play an important role in regulating the behaviour of non-neuronal stem cells, potentially via its chaperone ability, affecting protein homeostasis or impacting cellular stress responses.

Similarly, work undertaken in *C. elegans* found a widespread distribution of CSP α orthologue *DNJ-14* with an increased expression in the intestine under starvation, supporting a role in cellular stress responses and metabolic regulation (Barker et al., 2024).

Recent work investigating the CSP α transcriptomic signature using single-nucleus RNA sequencing to profile the cell types from the cortex of CSP α $-/-$, including; Excitatory neurons, Inhibitory neurons. Glial cells: Astrocytes, Microglia and Oligodendrocytes and endothelial cells and vascular-associated cells identified 1,772 genes with altered expression in CSP α Knock Out brains. Revealing that all neural cell classes showed signs of loss of synaptic pathways with an upregulation of autophagy-related genes, whilst microglia exhibited activation, and astrocytes and oligodendrocytes displayed signs of reactive gliosis, suggestive of an inflammatory response. The study highlighted the interplay between neurons and glial cells in the response to synaptic instability caused by a loss of CSP α (Wang et al., 2024).

CSP α exhibits oncogenic properties, promoting cell proliferation and migration in lung adenocarcinoma and hepatocellular carcinoma by elevating EGFR trafficking (H. Wang et al., 2021, Chen et al., 2025). Whilst interference with CSP α in the mouse embryonic hepatic cell BNL cl.2 led to a decrease in cell viability (Kang et al., 2008). In hepatocellular carcinoma, the microRNA (miRNA) miR-342-3p has been shown to interact with and inhibit CSP α in response to the long non-coding RNA (lncRNA) LINC00624, leading to apoptosis and proliferation (Xu et al., 2024).

These recent advances highlight that the effects of CSP α on cellular proliferation and fate are cell-type specific and that the regulation of CSP α expression and both the canonical cochaperone and novel functions are still not fully understood. As such new non-neuronal functions of CSP α need to be further investigated to gain a fuller understanding of its range of roles in a wide variety of cellular environments.

1.6 SNARE complexes

The SNARE complex is a protein complex which is essential for membrane fusion in eukaryotic cells, required for neurotransmitter release and vesicle trafficking. The complex is formed by the interaction of SNARE proteins localised to opposing membranes, which facilitates bringing the two membranes proximal to each other and facilitates fusion (Hu et al., 2003, Zhou et al., 2015, Yoon and Munson, 2018, Jahn et al., 2024)

The SNARE complex, formed of SNAP-25, Vesicle-associated membrane protein (VAMP-2)/ Synaptobrevin, and Syntaxin-1, is essential for exocytosis (Figure 1.4). The SNARE protein complex continuously cycles between a non-assembled state and a more stable assembled state (Söllner, Bennett, et al., 1993). The initial complex forms a coiled-coil quaternary structure. SNAP-25 contributes two α -helices, and VAMP-2 and Syntaxin-1 contribute one helix each. The α -helix of VAMP-2 binds to SNAP25 C-terminal helix, and Syntaxin-1 binds to SNAP-25's N-terminal helix. The formation of the SNARE complex is exergonic and provides the energy required for the membrane fusion event. Once the vesicle has fused with the membrane, the SNARE complex is dissociated by the ATPase N-ethylmaleimide-sensitive fusion (NSF) protein, inducing a conformational change in Syntaxin (Otto et al., 1997). Synaptic transmission is often high frequency, and as such, the SNAREs continuously cycle through this process (Figure 1.4).

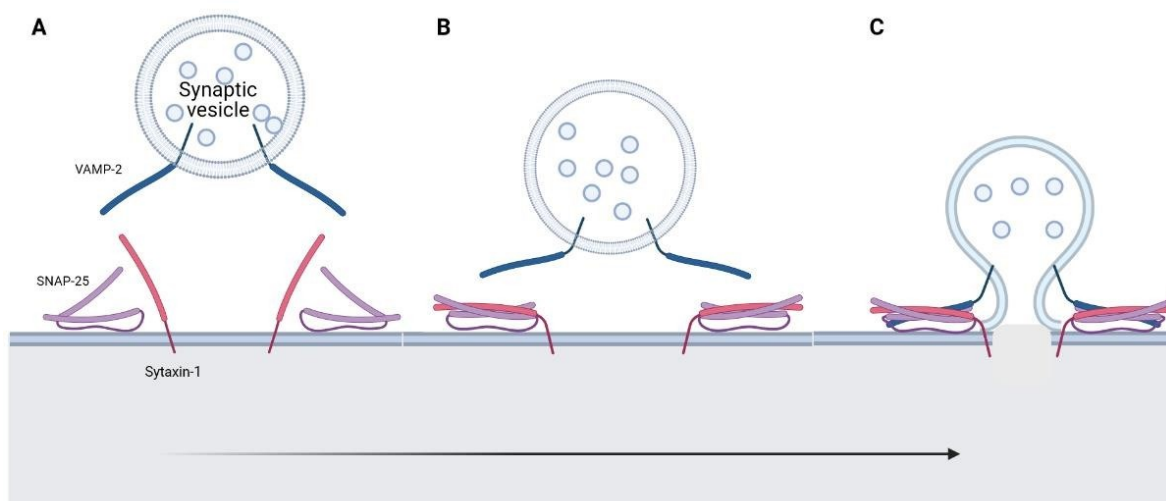


Figure 1.4: SNARE complex formation, core fusion machinery comprised of SNAP-25, VAMP-2 and Syntaxin-1 required for the docking of a synaptic vesicle. VAMP-2 (a v-SNARE protein) interacts with the cytosolic domains of the t-SNARE proteins SNAP25 and Syntaxin1, forming a stable coiled-coil SNARE complex. This holds the synaptic vesicle close to the target membrane, allowing fusion of the two membranes to take place.

1.7 Synaptosome-associated protein 25 (SNAP-25)

SNAP-25 (Synaptosome-associated protein 25) is a t-SNARE protein that is highly expressed at the neuronal plasma membrane (Winkle and Gupton, 2016). Functioning at this location as a component of the SNARE complex required for synaptic vesicle exocytosis (Goda, 1997). The SNARE proteins are divided into T- and R-SNAREs, defined by each protein's position within the four-helical SNARE bundle. SNAP-25 knockout is perinatally lethal in homozygous mice, whilst heterozygotes do not display any alteration in phenotype (Washbourne et al., 2002).

1.7.1 SNAP-25 family

The Synaptosomal-Associated Protein proteins (SNAP) make up a sub-family of SNARE proteins consisting of: SNAP-25, SNAP-23, SNAP-29 and SNAP-47, named for their corresponding molecular weight. The SNAP family is made up of a short N-terminus a 60-70 amino acid SNARE motif (Q_b), a linker region, and a second SNARE motif (Q_c) (Fasshauer et al., 1998) see Figure 1.5. In vertebrates, the linker region contains four palmitoylated cysteine residues, allowing plasma membrane attachment. SNAP-25 has two isoforms a and b, which differ by 9 amino acids in the linker region due to alternative splicing of exon 5 of the *snap-25* gene (Figure 1.5). SNAP-25a is expressed during development, whilst SNAP-25b becomes the predominant isoform postnatally (Bark et al., 1995). SNAP-23 is the most closely related member of the family to SNAP-25 (Araki *et al.*, 1997), like SNAP-25, SNAP-23 has palmitoylated cysteines, providing membrane targeting capabilities (Vogel and Roche, 1999). Whilst SNAP-29 and SNAP-47 both have longer linker domains, and are found widely on intracellular membranes in mammals and close to the Golgi but lack the palmitoylated cysteines (Figure 1.5) (Stegmaier *et al.*, 1998; Holt *et al.*, 2006).

Both SNAP-25 and SNAP-23 are involved in the regulation of exocytosis from synaptic vesicles. Cross-rescue experiments have shown that SNAP-25 and SNAP-23 can, in part, substitute for each other in their roles forming SNARE complexes, but SNAP-29 and SNAP-47 cannot (Salaün et al., 2005a). SNAP-29 is involved in autophagosome-to-lysosome function. SNAP-47 has a similar role and additional roles in the mediation of postsynaptic AMPA-receptor insertion (Kádková et al., 2019) and the regulation of the secretion of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) (Münster-Wandowski et al., 2017; Shimojo et al., 2015).

For SNAP-25, the two SNARE motifs are essential for interaction with VAMP-2 and Syntaxin-1, required for SNARE complex formation (Otto et al., 1997).

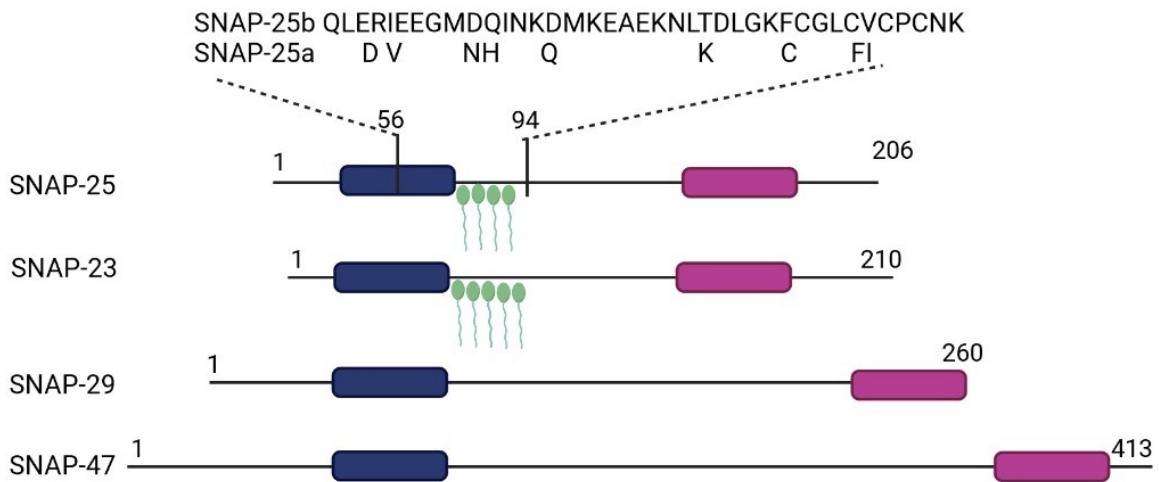


Figure 1.5: Structure of vertebrate SNAP-25 protein family members, SNAP-25 splice variants a and b at (top), which differ by nine amino acids in the C-terminus and linker region. The blue rectangle depicts the N-terminal SNARE motif (Q_b), whilst the purple rectangle depicts the second C-terminal SNARE motif (Q_c). Palmitoylated cysteines are depicted by green circles in SNAP-25 and SNAP-23, SNAP-29 and SNAP-47 do not contain any palmitoylated cysteines and maybe potentially become membrane-associated via interaction with other proteins, adapted from (Kádková et al., 2019).

1.7.2 SNAP25 lifecycle

When first synthesised in the cell, SNAP-25 is a soluble protein that undergoes palmitoylation about 20 minutes after synthesis, coinciding with an increase in protein stability (Figure 1.6) (Gonzalo and Linder, 1998).

Four SNAP-25 cysteines are palmitoylated by 3 members of the DHHC family, DHHC3, DHHC7, and DHHC17, which are localised to the Golgi. This modification recruits SNAP-25 to the Golgi from whence it is trafficked to the plasma membrane (Greaves et al., 2010). SNAP-25 binds to Q-SNARE protein Syntaxin, after which the two proteins form a complex that is then inserted into membranes (Vogel, Cabaniols and Roche, 2000). SNAP-25 is predominantly localised to the plasma membrane, with pools also found in the recycling endosomes and the trans-Golgi network (Greaves and Chamberlain, 2011).

In cerebellar granule neurons, the half-life of SNAP-25 was estimated at 16 hours, but this increased to 35 hours in mature neurons (Sanders, Yang and Liu, 1998). The age-dependent increase in the half-life suggests SNAP-25 becomes resistant to proteasome turnover in mature neurons (Sanders, Yang and Liu, 1998). SNAP-25 levels increase as neurons undergoing synaptogenesis *in vitro*, with a

major upregulation coinciding with the establishment of synapses in the latter stages of neuronal development (Catsicas et al., 1991).

Cycloheximide inhibition of protein synthesis causes a significant decrease in the degradation of SNAP-25, suggesting that synaptic activity affects the stability of SNAP-25 (Sharma et al., 2011).

SNAP-25 is poly-ubiquitinated as a normal part of its lifecycle, leading to proteasomal degradation (See Section 3.1.2 for details on ubiquitination sites) (Figure 1.6). This is increased in the absence of SNAP-25 chaperone CSP α (Sharma et al., 2012a). Currently, the compartment in which SNAP-25 is ubiquitinated in is unknown; there is the potential that SNAP-25 is ubiquitinated whilst anchored to the plasma membrane, during endocytosis or in the cytosol, either before SNAP-25 is input into the membrane or after extraction.

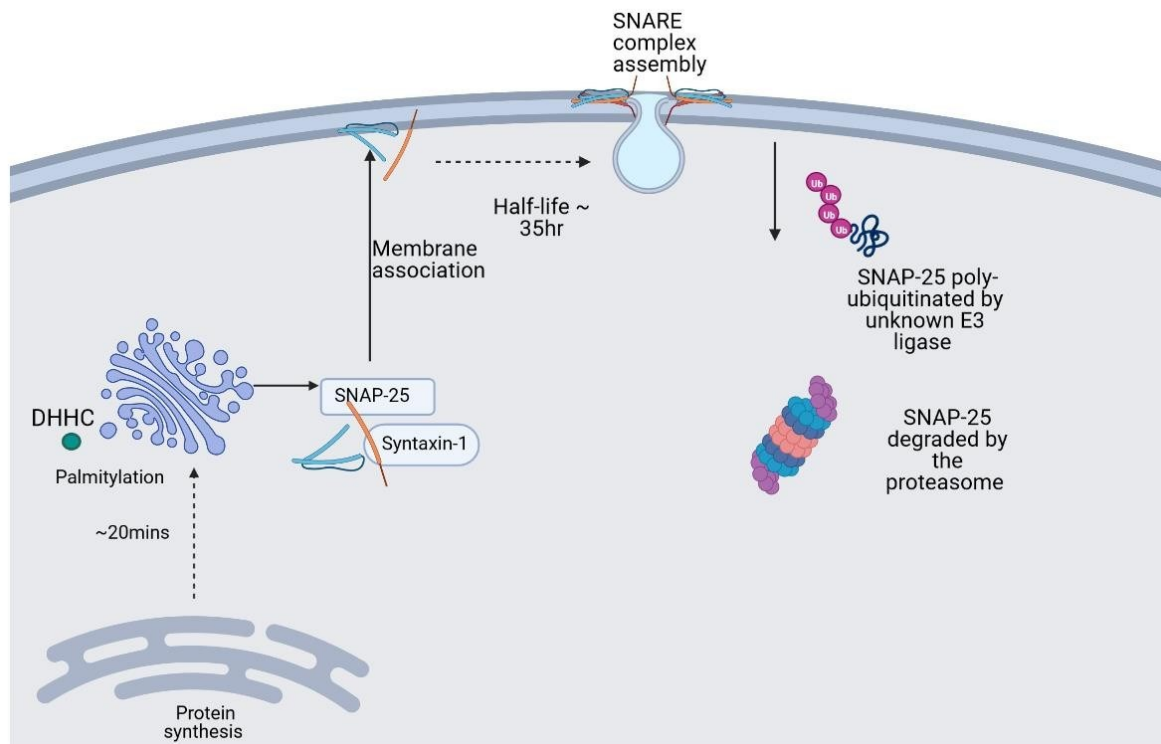


Figure 1.6: SNAP-25 life cycle. SNAP-25 is synthesised as a soluble protein and palmitoylated at the Golgi by DHHC. SNAP-25, whilst interacting with Syntaxin-1, is inserted into the presynaptic membrane, where, with syntaxin-1 and VAMP-2, it facilitates fusion of vesicles to the membrane as part of the synaptic vesicle cycle by the formation of SNARE complexes. At the end of SNAP-25's life or when it is unchaperoned, SNAP-25 is ubiquitinated and degraded by the proteasome, the site of which is still unknown.

1.7.3 Additional roles of SNAP25's role at the pre-synapse

In addition to SNARE complex formation, SNAP-25 is implicated in additional roles at the synapse. SNAP-25 interacts with synaptotagmin in a calcium-dependent fashion (Zhang et al., 2002), and SNAP-25 has a role in vesicle docking and priming (Mohrmann et al., 2010). SNAP-25 also interacts and modulates voltage-gated calcium channels (Toft-Bertelsen et al., 2016) via N-type (Sheng et al., 1996), P/Q-type (Martin-Moutot et al., 1996), L-type (Wiser et al., 1999) and T-type channels (Weiss et al., 2012). At hippocampal synapses, SNAP-25 has been shown to actively take part in slow clathrin-dependent endocytosis (Zhang et al., 2013) (Figure 1.7).

1.7.4 Roles of SNAP25's at the post-synapse

A postsynaptic role for SNAP-25 has also been suggested (Figure 1.7), due to SNAP-25 interacting with Protein Kinase C which implicates it in the control of NMDA (Lau et al., 2010) and kainate receptors (Selak et al., 2009). SNAP-25 may also play a role in postsynaptic spine morphogenesis and plasticity via interaction with the scaffold protein p140Cap located to dendritic spines (Tomasoni et al., 2013a) (Figure 1.7).

It is debated whether SNAP-25 localises to dendritic spines due to conflicting evidence from several studies (Figure 1.7); Immunofluorescence (Selak et al., 2009), ground state depletion microscopy (Tomasoni et al., 2013a) coimmunoprecipitation, electron microscopy (Hussain et al., 2019), bimolecular fluorescence complementation and biochemical fractionation (Fossati et al., 2015; Selak et al., 2009; Tomasoni et al., 2013a) studies have all suggested that SNAP-25 may be present at the postsynapse; however, conflicting studies, including immunogold labelling of synaptic boutons, showed exclusive presynaptic localisation of SNAP-25 (Holderith et al., 2012). The presynaptic population of SNAP-25 is likely to be in large excess, which may lead to difficulty in detecting and quantifying the postsynaptic pool if it is present (Tao-Cheng et al., 2000).

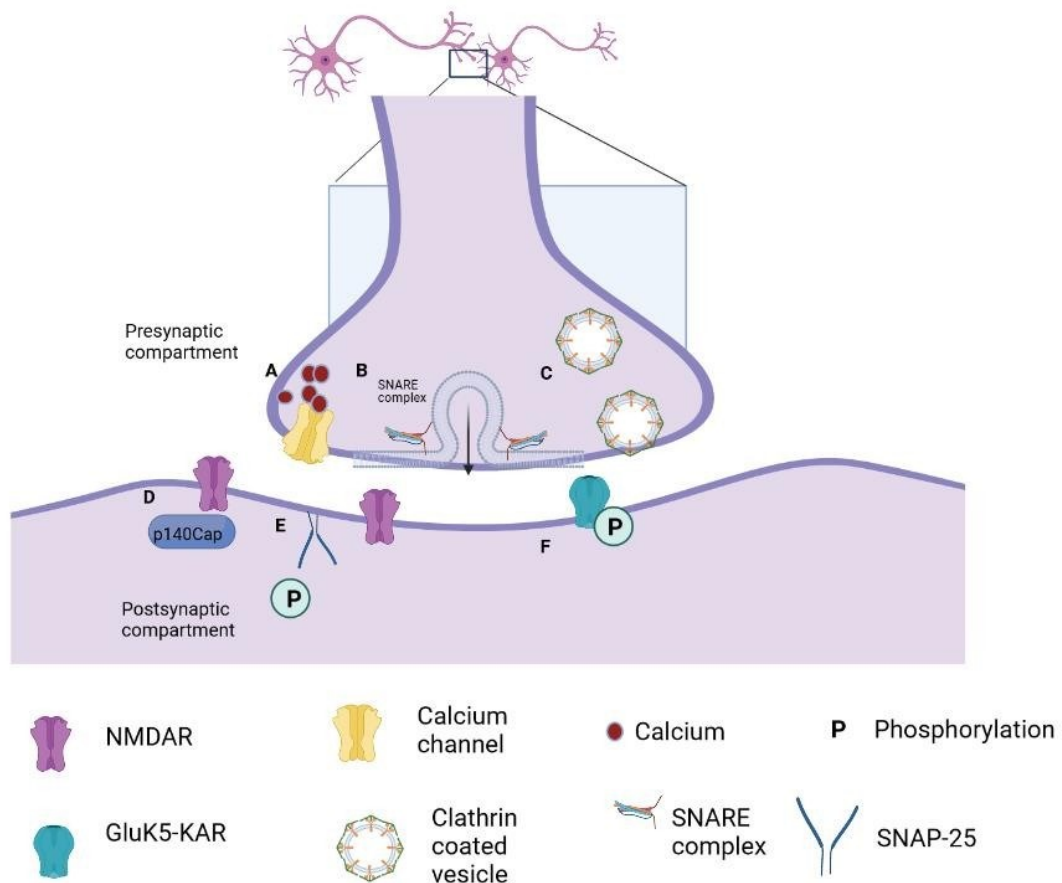


Figure 1.7: SNAP-25 function at the pre- and post-synapse. A: SNAP-25 interacts with Calcium ion channels, B: SNAP-25 forms a SNARE complex with VAMP-2 and Syntaxin-1 for docking and exocytosis of synaptic vesicles. A: SNAP-25 affects pre-synaptic calcium influx at calcium channels,. C: SNAP-25 has an active role in slow clathrin-mediated synaptic vesicle endocytosis by binding to the endocytic protein intersectin. D: SNAP-25 interacts with p140Cap, which forms a complex with PSD95, cortactin, Arp2,3 and F-actin involved in the organisation of the postsynaptic density protein network. E: Phosphorylation of SNAP-25 by PKC promotes the insertion of NMDA receptor-containing vesicles at the cell surface. F: SNAP-25 has a role in the removal of kainite receptors (KAR) from the cell surface when PKC phosphorylates of kainite receptor. Adapted from (Antonucci et al., 2016).

1.7.5 Association of SNAP-25 in neurological disorders

SNAP-25 is associated and potentially causative in a range of neurological disorders (Figure 1.8). Both up- and down-regulation of SNAP-25 has been observed in neurodevelopmental, neurodegenerative and psychiatric disorders. Assembly of the SNARE complex is a pivotal intermediate in synaptic function as it underpins the core process of transmitter release.

Both SNARE proteins and the complex are reduced in human post-mortem brain tissue from Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease patients (Sharma, Burré and Südhof, 2012)

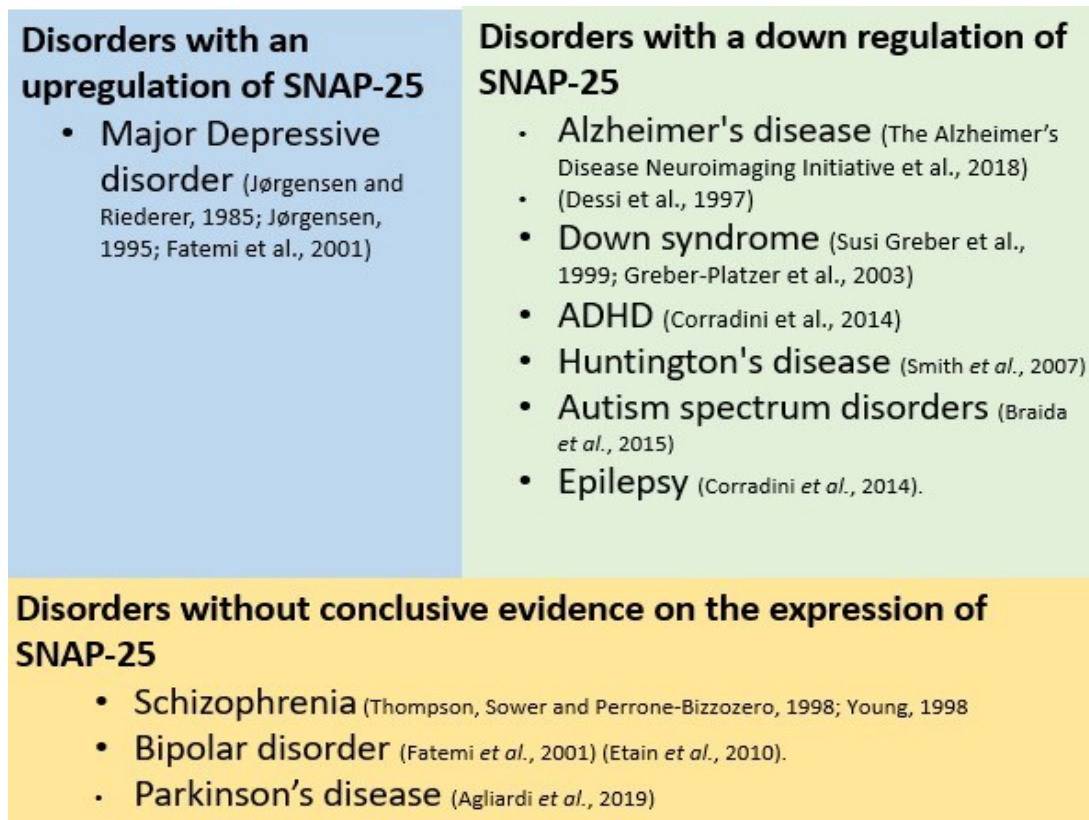


Figure 1.8: Schematic depicting the changes in SNAP-25 expression identified in neurological diseases and disorders. The blue column depicts disorders where there is an upregulation of SNAP-25, the green column depicts disorders with a downregulation of SNAP-25 and the orange column depicts disorders where there is inconclusive evidence of changes in SNAP-25 expression.

1.8 Ubiquitination and the ubiquitin-proteasome system

The ubiquitin-proteasome system (UPS) is a protein degradation system in eukaryotes mainly named for the modification of proteins with ubiquitin initiating degradation (Ciechanover and Schwartz, 1998). Ubiquitination is a posttranslational modification whereby ubiquitin, a protein formed of 76 amino acids is covalently bound to a lysine residue of a target protein substrate (Callis, 2014). Proteins can be both mono and poly ubiquitinated and modified at multiple residues (see section 1.8.2). Ubiquitination is a key regulator of protein degradation, proteostasis and cell signalling (Lecker et al., 2006).

1.8.1 Components required for ubiquitination and the UPS

A group of proteins termed ubiquitin ligases are required for ubiquitination, the process requires a number of highly regulated steps (Figure 1.9), the first of which is triggered by the ATP-dependent activation of ubiquitin by an E1 ubiquitin-activating enzyme. The activated ubiquitin is then able to

be transferred to the second enzyme, termed an E2 ubiquitin-conjugating enzyme, which interacts and binds to an E3 ubiquitin ligase conjugated to a target substrate. E3 ubiquitin ligases are characterised by a specific defining motif which facilitates the ubiquitination of substrate proteins by ensuring that the E2 ligase and the substrate are proximal to the ubiquitin moiety to be transferred. E3 ligases give ubiquitination its specificity, with E3 ligases having selective cellular substrates (Pickart and Eddins, 2004).

In humans, there are two E1 ubiquitin ligases, about 40 E2 ubiquitin ligases, but over 600 genes encoding E3 ubiquitin ligases, which provide the specificity of ubiquitination for its target substrate (Callis, 2014; Yang et al., 2021).

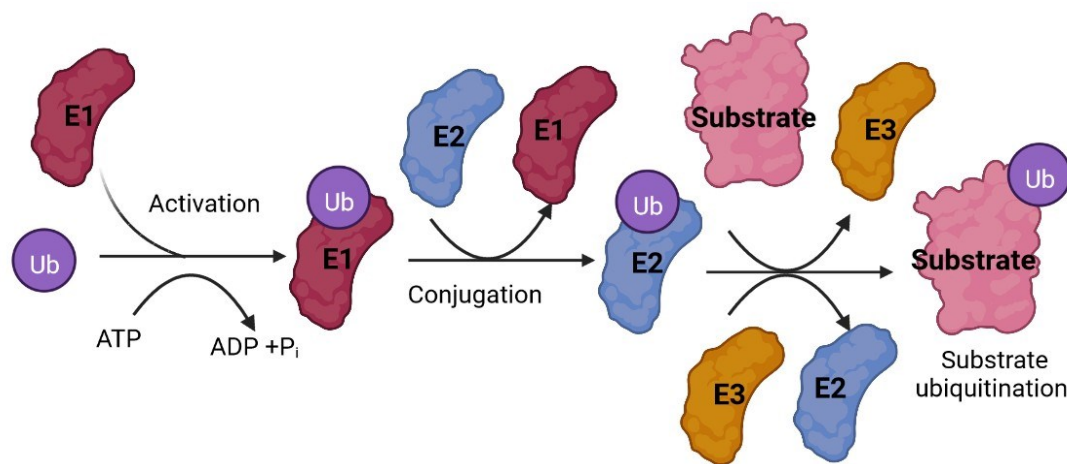


Figure 1.9: Ubiquitination pathway, conjugation of ubiquitin to the target substrate protein.

1) Ubiquitin is conjugated to E1 with a thioester linkage, activated by the breakdown of ATP. 2) Ubiquitin is transferred to an E2 ubiquitin ligase. 3) The E2-ubiquitin complex can then interact with specific E3 ligases, which facilitate the transfer of the ubiquitin molecule to a substrate protein. Adapted from (Pickart and Eddins, 2004)

1.8.2 Diversity in ubiquitin modification code

The hundreds of different mammalian E3 ubiquitin ligases provide diversity to ubiquitination; the E3 ligase-substrate relationship is highly complex as an individual E3 ligase can have multiple specific substrates and individual substrates can be ubiquitinated by multiple E3 ligases (O'Connor and Huijbregtse, 2017).

A further level of diversity in ubiquitination is provided by the ubiquitin moiety itself and where it's placed (Figure 1.10). Ubiquitin can be conjugated to its substrate in a variety of configurations. Due to the presence of seven lysine residues and the N-terminal methionine residue in the ubiquitin

molecule, the ubiquitin chain can form seven isoforms; K6, K11, K27, K33, K48, K63 and M1 (Figure 1.10) (Akutsu et al., 2016).

Mono-ubiquitination is the attachment of a single ubiquitin molecule to a protein, which can be a consequence of being directly attached or due to trimming of polyubiquitinated chains by Deubiquitinases (DUBs). The addition of multiple ubiquitin moieties to different target sites in a substrate is termed multi-mono-ubiquitination (Ronai, 2016). Proteins can also become polyubiquitinated, which is the association of chains of ubiquitin on the terminal methionine residue or internal lysine residues (Pickart and Eddins, 2004). Polyubiquitination can further be divided into homotypic and heterotypic polyubiquitination (Grice et al., 2015). Different ubiquitin-chain linkages have different functions within the cell, leading to a change in cellular localisation, cell signalling, protein degradation, and DNA repair (Figure 1.10) (Li and Ye, 2008).

Ubiquitination can take place alongside other post-translational modifications (PTMs) such as phosphorylation (Song and Luo, 2019) and acetylation (Caron, Boyault and Khochbin, 2005), adding further regulation to the ubiquitin signalling pathways. Phosphorylation can modulate the binding affinity of the E3 ligase-substrate and affect the stability of a protein (Song and Luo, 2019).

In addition to trimming poly-ubiquitin chains, DUBs have a central role in maintaining ubiquitin homeostasis by releasing monoubiquitin from ubiquitinated substrate proteins, which have entered the proteasome once committed for degradation (Snyder and Silva, 2021). In addition, DUBs can also be used to remove mono-ubiquitin or trim poly-ubiquitin chains from proteins, allowing a change in protein inhibition, localisation or folding properties of substrates (Hagai and Levy, 2010; Xu and Jaffrey, 2011).

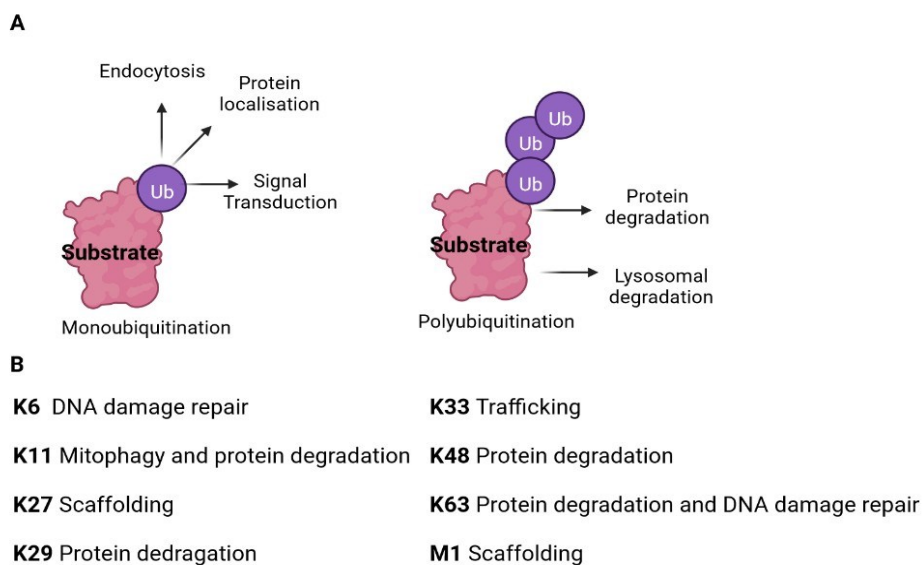


Figure 1.10: Examples of consequences of ubiquitination, A) Consequences due to mono and poly ubiquitination, B) Consequences of ubiquitination of different residues.

1.8.3 Protein degradation by 26S proteasome

The proteasome is a 2.5 MDa multi-subunit protease located in the cytosol and nucleus of eukaryotic cells, responsible for the degradation of ubiquitinated proteins (Marshall and Vierstra, 2019). The UPS has evolved to target soluble, short-lived nuclear and cytosolic proteins for degradation (Voges et al., 1999). The 26S proteasome is formed of a 20S core protease and a 19S regulatory cap (Groll et al., 1999; Schweitzer et al., 2016; Voges et al., 1999).

For a ubiquitinated protein to be degraded, the 19S regulatory unit associates with a ubiquitin-tagged protein, inducing a conformational change of the proteasome, causing the 19S ATPase translocation channel to be moved directly above the 20S gate, opening it for the substrate to unfold and translocate to the 20S core. Once committed for degradation, Rpn11 an integral proteasome-associated DUB located in the 19S complex, removes ubiquitin from substrates (Thibaudeau and Smith, 2019). ATPases bind to the protein and use ATP hydrolysis to unfold and translocate the protein into the 20S core (Lecker et al., 2006). The linearised polypeptide is cleaved, forming small peptides of 3-22 residues (Kisselev et al., 1999) which are released from the 20S and further digested by cytosolic endopeptidases and aminopeptidases, the resulting amino acids can then be reutilised in the synthesis of new proteins or metabolized (Reits *et al.*, 2004; Saric, Graef and Goldberg, 2004).

The Proteasome can be inhibited. Mg-132 (carbobenzoxyl-L-leucyl-L-leucyl-leucinal) is a reversible proteasome inhibitor which blocks the degradation of proteins by targeting and blocking the catalytic activity of the β -subunit of the 20S proteasome core (Lee and Goldberg, 1998, Guo and Peng, 2013) this allows for investigation into ubiquitinated proteins.

1.8.4 Alteration and dysregulation of ubiquitination in neurodegeneration and neurodevelopmental disorders

Alterations in the ubiquitin signalling pathway are associated with the pathogenesis of multiple diseases and genetic disorders. Errors in ubiquitination can result in defects in processes including autophagy, cell signalling and DNA repair mechanisms associated with neurodegeneration, cancer and autoimmune disorders (Haglund and Dikic, 2005; Sakai *et al.*, 2020; Li, Li and Wu, 2022).

Dysregulated ubiquitination and E3 ligases have been associated with a wide range of human neurodegenerative, neurodevelopmental and psychiatric disorders, including Alzheimer's disease (Kuzuhara *et al.*, 1988, Hu *et al.*, 2011, , Liu *et al.*, 2008, Potjewyd and Axtman, 2021, Wu *et al.*, 2021), Down syndrome (Di Domenico *et al.*, 2013; Fortea *et al.*, 2021, Tramutola *et al.*, 2017). Huntington's disease (Sap and Reits, 2020, Steffan *et al.*, 2004), Bipolar disorder (Bousman *et al.*, 2010, Ryan *et al.*, 2006), Epilepsies (Engel *et al.*, 2017), Rubio *et al.*, 2013), Autism spectrum disorders (Glessner *et al.*, 2009) and in Major Depressive Disorder (Mouri *et al.*, 2012). There are also instances where E3 ligase defects are causative for human diseases; Angelman syndrome is a neurodevelopmental disorder caused by a de novo deletion of the UBE3A gene (Kishino, Lalande, and Wagstaff, 1997; Matsuura *et al.*, 1997; Clayton-Smith and Laan, 2003).

1.8.5 Synaptic ubiquitination

Ubiquitination is widely known to have a role in neuronal development, the formation and pruning of synapses (DiAntonio *et al.*, 2001, Ding *et al.*, 2007), and a role in both excitatory and inhibitory transmission (Colledge *et al.*, 2003, Pinto *et al.*, 2021).

A review by Hawabe and Stegmuller in 2021 highlighted the need to investigate further E3 ligases and how ubiquitination regulates the function of the synapses by acknowledging that whilst there has been a lot of work into the transcriptional and translational regulation of synapses, more work is required to uncover ubiquitination-dependent processes (Kawabe and Stegmüller, 2021a).

Targeted ubiquitination of multiple synaptic proteins has been described, and the effects of ubiquitination cover many aspects of neuronal function and dysfunction in the pre- and postsynapses and in both axons and dendrites (Table 1.3) (Ding and Shen, 2008).

Table 1.4: Selected ubiquitination identified at the specific subcellular neuronal compartments

Subcellular location	Ubiquitination events	References
Presynaptic	Regulates neurotransmission strength Size of the recycling synaptic vesicle pool Degradation of active zone proteins Ubiquitination of SNARE proteins	(Speese et al., 2003) (Willeumier et al., 2006) (Yao et al., 2007) (Chin et al., 2002a)
Postsynaptic	Regulation of neurotransmittergated ion channels. Trafficking of postsynaptic receptors Degradation of postsynaptic scaffold proteins Degradation signalling Functionally modulation signalling	(Lin and Man, 2013) (Christianson and Green, 2004) (Ehlers, 2003) (Haglund and Dikic, 2005)
Axon	Protein degradation in structural rearrangements of axon outgrowth. Ubiquitination by APC coordinates axon growth. RPM-1/ Highwire in axon differentiation.	(Campbell and Holt, 2001) (Konishi <i>et al.</i> , 2004) (H. Li et al., 2008)
Dendrites	Dendritic morphogenesis Promotes dendritic arbour formation. Regulation of dendrite length	(Choe et al., 2007) (Kim et al., 2009) (Kawabe et al., 2010)

1.8.6 How hyper-ubiquitinated SNAP-25 can be used to discover ligases(s) responsible for ubiquitination at the pre-synapse

Mutations and deletion of CSP α , SNAP-25 and proteins involved in the UPS including E3 ubiquitin ligases are associated with neurological disorders (Jiang and Beaudet, 2004). Evidence suggests that E3 ligases have crucial roles in neuronal functions including the formation and maintenance of synapses and synaptic transmission (Upadhyay et al., 2017).

SNAP-25 is ubiquitinated and degraded by the proteasome as a normal part of its life cycle (Figure 1.11). In wild-type mice models, SNAP-25 ubiquitination and degradation is regulated by synaptic activity; an overexpression of CSP α decreases the levels of SNAP-25 degradation (Sharma, Burré and Südhof, 2011). However, deletion of CSP α leads to the formation of an abnormal aggregating conformer of SNAP-25, subject to hyper-ubiquitination and degradation by the proteasome (Figure 1.11) (Sharma, Burré and Südhof, 2011). Suggesting that the expression and activity of SNAP-25 is in an equilibrium between being chaperoned by CSP α and being misfolded, ubiquitinated and degraded by the proteasome. This allows for a model to investigate ubiquitination in an environment with chaperone deficiency and dysregulated proteostasis.

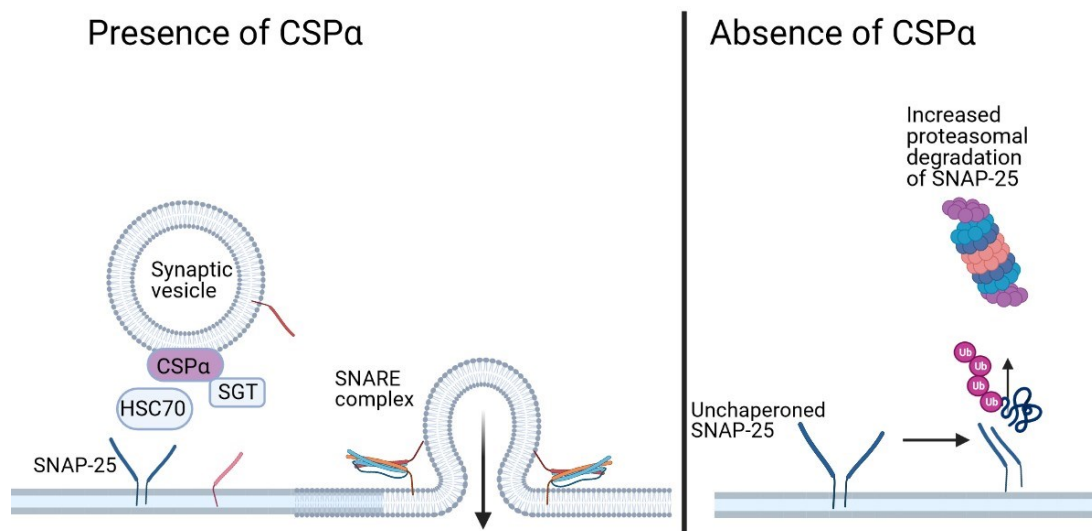


Figure 1.11: The effect of the presence and absence of CSP α on SNAP-25 ubiquitination and subsequent degradation. In the presence of CSP α , SNAP-25 is maintained in a conformation that is able to form SNARE complexes; in the absence of CSP α , the levels of SNAP-25 ubiquitination are increased along with subsequent degradation.

Identification of E3 ubiquitin ligases that hyper-ubiquitinate SNAP-25 will inform on the process of ubiquitination at the pre-synapse and the role ubiquitination has in the regulation of synaptic vesicle transport, which is dysregulated in a number of neurological disorders.

1.9 Hypothesis and Aims

Here I hypothesize that a lack of CSP α can be used to further our understanding of SNAP-25 ubiquitination.

I aim to use CSP α , SNAP-25 and synaptic function to investigate the wider issue of synaptic proteostasis:

1. Aim 1 of this project will investigate potential E3 ligases involved in the degradation of SNAP-25 via a bioinformatic and two biochemical approaches: a BioID proximitydependent labelling protocol and Myc immunoprecipitation. Using a Myc BioID SNAP-25 construct to identify E3 ligases that are located proximally which may be responsible for the increased levels of SNAP-25 ubiquitination observed in CSP α -/-.
2. Aim 2 of this project is to produce and characterise a CSP α knockdown PC12 line with the aim of increasing our knowledge of the role of CSP α in post-mitotic cells.

Chapter 2 Materials and Methods

2.1 Materials

All molecular biology reagents were supplied by New England Biolabs and Promega unless stated otherwise. All cell culture media and plastic consumables were sourced from Gibco ThermoFischer, Greiner Bio and Starlabs. For other cell culture experiments, reagents were obtained from Invitrogen unless stated otherwise. Reagents for protein preparation and staining were from Sigma Aldrich (Merck) or ThermoFischer unless otherwise noted. Primers were generated, and sequencing was carried out by Eurofins Genomics (Germany).

2.2 Bioinformatics methods

A three-part bioinformatics strategy was used to facilitate the investigation of candidate E3 ligases with the potential to ubiquitinate SNAP-25. This involved i. A literature, ii. A structural prediction approach (Figure 2.1). iii. Supplemented by literature-led interrogation of E3 ligases associated with disorders in which there is SNAP-25 dysfunction. Investigations into neuronal localisation and proteomic screen identification were carried out to filter and prioritise candidates for further investigation (Figure 2.1). Finally, the literature was reviewed to identify proteomic screens that had been carried out for each of the identified E3 ligases and to determine if SNAP-25 was found in these screens.

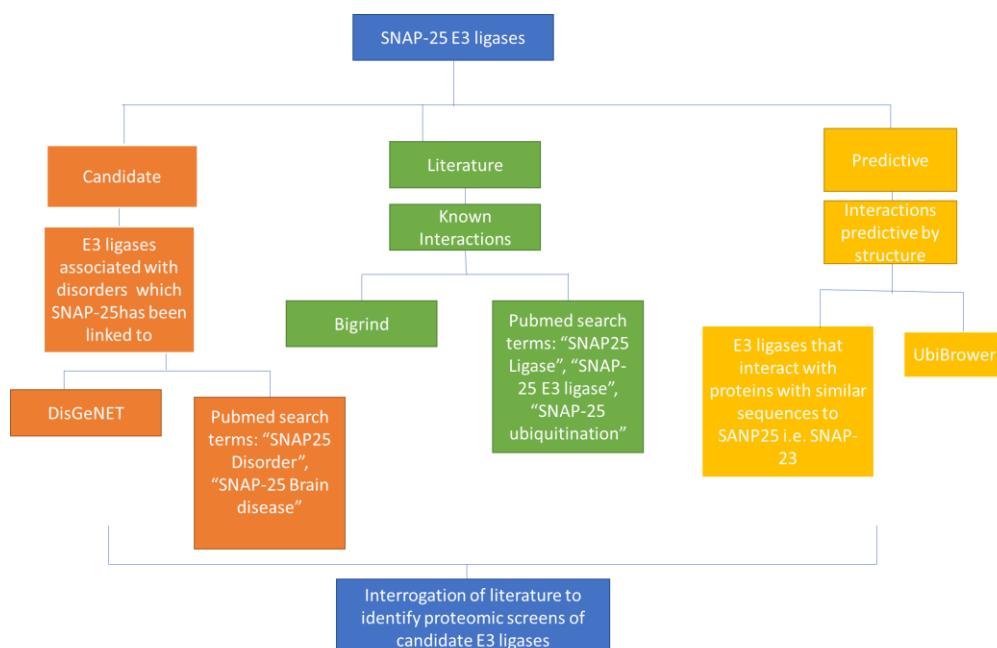


Figure 2.1: Bioinformatics workflow to identify candidate SNAP-25 E3 ligases. Literature approach (green) used to identify known and verified interactions of SNAP-25 and E3 ligases, the Predictive approach (yellow) used to identify potential interactions found by structural analysis, and the candidate approach (orange) was used to provide further support for E3 ligases due to an association with disorders SNAP-25 has been linked to.

2.2.1 Literature association bioinformatic approach to identify candidate SNAP-25 E3 ligases

The literature-based approach investigated deposited experimental data to probe existing literature evidence indicating a potential physical interaction between SNAP-25 and E3 ligases.

2.2.2 BioGRID and Human E3 ubiquitin ligase database for the identification of SNAP-25- E3 ubiquitin ligase Interactors

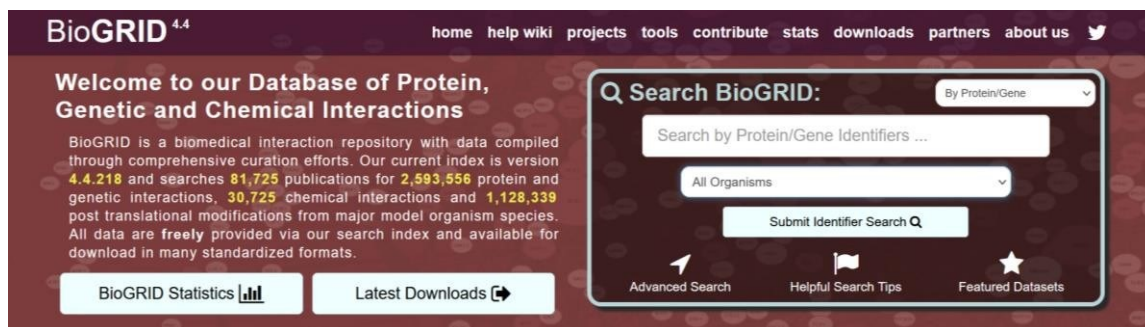


Figure 2.2: BioGrid load-up page used for the identification of literature-supported proteinprotein interactions.

The database BioGRID version 4.4 (<https://thebiogrid.org/>) (Accessed October 2021) (Figure 2.2, Table 2.1) was used to identify known SNAP-25 protein interactions. BioGRID is a literature depository database which produces a comprehensive list of protein-protein interactions with corresponding literature sources. The search term “SNAP25” Homo sapiens was used covering the terms (RIC-4, RIC4, SEC9, SNAP, SNAP-25, bA416N4.2, dJ1068F16.2) The protein interaction list generated for SNAP-25 was stored as a list in Excel, which was compared to the Human E3 ubiquitin ligase (<https://hpcwebapps.cit.nih.gov/ESBL/Database/E3-ligases/>) and Accessory Proteins databases lists (<https://esbl.nhlbi.nih.gov/Databases/KSBP2/Targets/Lists/E3ligases/RelatedProteins.html>) (Table 2.1) which were also saved in an excel format and conditional formatting for values duplicated between lists were used to identify SNAP-25 interactors that were present on the E3 ligase database. The literature sources from BioGRID for the proteins that were identified to have E3 ligase function were then evaluated for evidence of an interaction with SNAP-25. Finally, these proteins were

compared to the Human Protein Atlas version 20.1 (<https://www.proteinatlas.org/>) to identify if they were neuronally expressed.

2.2.3 PubMed database for the identification of E3 ligases that interact with SNAP25

PubMed (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>) (Accessed October 2021) (Table 2.1) was used to produce a list of SNAP-25-E3 ligase interactions. This was done using the search terms “SNAP-25 ligase”, “SNAP-25 E3 ligases” and “SNAP-25 ubiquitination”. Lists of potential E3 interacting partners were then compared to the Human E3 ubiquitin ligase.

Table 2.1: Databases used for the identification of E3 ubiquitin ligases that interact with SNAP-25 via the literature-based searches.

Database for Literature approach	Data collection methods	Data curation
BioGrid: The Biological General Repository for Interaction Datasets	Archives genetic and protein interactions from both model organisms; <i>S.cerevisiae</i> , <i>S. pombe</i> , <i>A.thaliana</i> and humans. Interactions are curated by primary literature, taking into account both high-throughput datasets and focused studies	Curation from database curators searching primary literature: CRISPR Database, HGNC, Alliance of Genome Resources, VEGA, OMIM, Entrez Gene, RefSeq, UniprotKB, Ensemble, HPRD.
PubMed	PubMed is an open-access database of citations from journals, online books and literature with a life science or biological theme.	Biomedical literature from MEDLINE, life science journals and online books
Human E3 ubiquitin ligase database	List of all predicted E3 ligase genes coded by the human genome, by manual curation of limited pre-existing lists.	Cell Signalling Technology Ubiquitin Ligase table, hUbiquitome database, Qiagen ubiquitin Ligase PCR array, UbiProt, DUDE v.1.0, and Ligases identified by Li et al within a Genome-Wide and Functional Annotation of Human Ubiquitin Ligases
Human E3 Ubiquitin Ligase Accessory Proteins Database	List of known E3 ligase accessory proteins coded by the human genome, by combining limited pre-existing lists	Supplementary Table 1 for Li et al with the additional inclusion of the Cullin proteins

Repeating the PubMed search with the above search terms in June 2025 produced two additional articles for the search term “SNAP-25 ligase”, and six additional articles for the search term “SNAP-25 ubiquitination”, which are discussed in Chapter 3.

2.2.4 Predictive bioinformatic approach to identify E3 ligases

The predictive approach utilised structural features of SNAP-25 and related SNAP-25-like proteins to produce a list of potential E3 ligases.

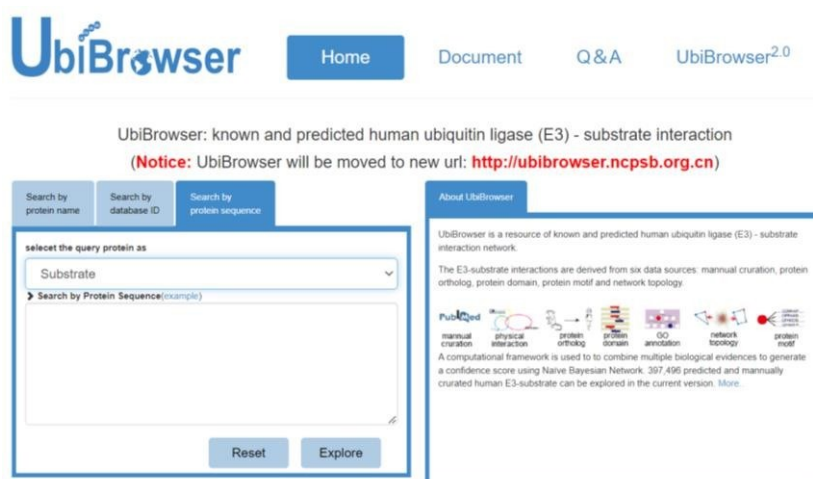
2.2.5 Use of Ubi-Browser to predict E3 ligases that have the potential to interact with SNAP-25

The database Ubibrowser (<http://ubibrowser.bio-it.cn/ubibrowser/>) (Accessed November 2021) (Table 2.2), which predicts E3 ligase-substrates interactions based on structural features and GO term annotation, was used to predict potential SNAP-25 E3 ligases.

Two iterations of the database were available (Figure 2.3) Ubibrowser 1.0

(<http://ubibrowser.bio-it.cn/>) predicted just human interactions using manual curation, protein orthologues, protein domains, protein motifs and network topology. Whilst UbiBrowser 2.0

([UbiBrowser v2](http://ubibrowser.v2)) has extended its database to include interactions for other eukaryotic species.



UbiBrowser v2 (bio-it.cn)

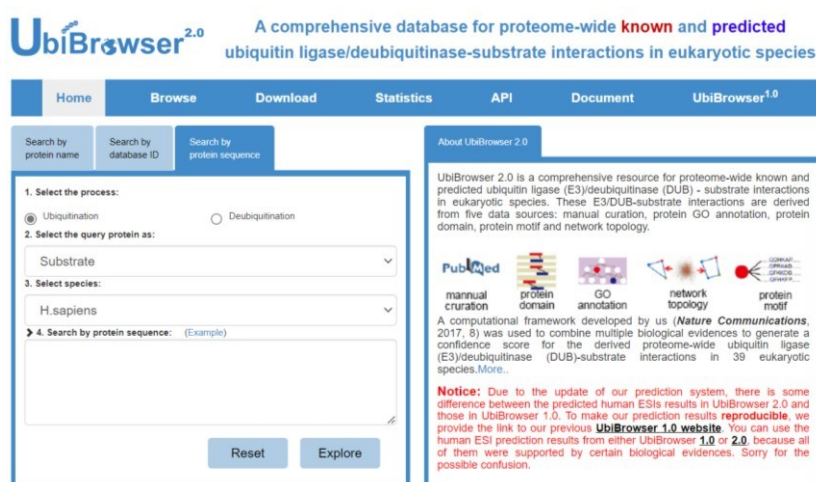


Figure 2.3: Ubibrowser look-up pages for iterations 1.0 and 2.0 for the prediction of E3 ligase–substrate interactions

P60880, Sequence SNP25_B_HUMAN used for the prediction of E3 ligase interactions:

MAEDADMRNELEEMQRRADQLADESLESTRRMLQLVEESKDAGIRTLVMLDEQGEQLERIEEGMD
QINKDMKEAEKNLTDLGKFCGLVCPCNKLKSSDAYKKAWGNNQDGVVASQPARVVDEREQMAIS
GGFIRRVTDARENEMDENLEQVSGIIGNLRHMALDMGNEIDTQNRQIDRIMEKADSNKTRIDEAN
QRATKMLGSG

Ubibrowser 1.0 and 2.0 search results were reassessed in June 2025, generating the same readout.

2.2.6 Use of Human Protein Atlas to identify neuronal protein expression

E3 ligases that were identified by Ubibrowser as being candidates for the ubiquitination of SNAP-25 were investigated for evidence of neuronal expression using the Human Protein Atlas. Each E3 ligase was individually searched by inputting the protein name, then the brain was chosen as the search location, and evidence of both RNA and Protein expression was assessed.

2.2.7 Identification of E3 ligases that interact with proteins with structural similarity to SNAP-25

Sequence and structural alignments of other human SNAP family members, which share sequence homology or predicted structural protein folds to SNAP-25, were carried out using

BLAST (<https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi>) (Version: BLAST+ 2.12.0) (Accessed December 2021) (Table 2.2), Multalin (<http://multalin.toulouse.inra.fr/multalin/>) (Version 5.4.1) (Accessed December 2021), the RCSB PDB - Structure Pairwise Alignment Tool (<https://www.rcsb.org/alignment>) (Accessed November 2022) and UniProt (<https://www.uniprot.org/>) (Version 2022_05) (Accessed November 2022) databases. BioGrid (<https://thebiogrid.org/>) (version 4.2.193) (Accessed December 2021) was then used for SNAP-23, 29 and 47 to identify all known interactors, which were then compared to the Human E3 ubiquitin ligase and Accessory Proteins databases to identify E3 ligase interactors as described in section 2.2.2. Ubibrowser was used to identify structural features, including domain pairs and E3 recognising motifs which would predict interaction with E3 ligases, which could be mapped onto the SNAP family amino acid sequence. Sequences for each of the SNAP family members are displayed below, and the combinations of outputs are displayed in Figure 3.9.

O00161, Sequence SNP23_HUMAN used for the prediction of E3 ligase interactions:

MDNLSSEEIQQRAHQITDESLESTRRILGLAIESQDAGIKTITMLDEQKEQLNRIEEGLDQINKDMRET
EKTLTELNKKCCGLVCPCNRTKNFESGKAYKTTWGDGGENSPCNVVSQKQPGPVTNGQLQOPTTGA
ASGGYIKRITNDAREDEMEENLTQVGSILGNLKDMLNIGNEIDAQNPQIKRITDKADTNRDRIDIANA
RAKKLIDS

O95721, Sequence SNP29_HUMAN used for the prediction of E3 ligase interactions:

MSAYPKSYNPFDDGDEGARPAWRDARDLPDGPADADRQQYLRQEVLRRAEATAASTSRSLA
LMYESEKVGVASSEELARQRGVLERTEKMVDKMDQLKISQKHINSIKSVFGGLVNYFKSKPVETPPE
QNGTLTSQPNRLKEAISTSKEQEAKYQASHPNLRKLDLDDTPVPRGAGSAMSTDAYPKNPHLAYH

QKIDSNLDELMSGLGRLKDIALGMQTEIEEQDDILDRLTTKVDKLDVNIKSTERKVRQL

Q5SQN1, Sequence SNP47_HUMAN used for the prediction of E3 ligase interactions:

MRAARRGLHCAGAERPRRRGRLWDSSGVPQRQKRPGPWRTQTQEQMSRDVCIHTWPCTYYLEPK
 RRWVTGQLSLTSLRFMTDSTGEILVSFPLSSIVEIKKEASHFIFSSITILEKGHAKHWFSSLRPSRNVV
 FSIIEHFWRELLLSQPGAVADASVPRTRGEELTGLMAGSQKRELTARVLHHQGQQLDSVMRGLDK
 MESDLEVADRLLTELESPAWWPFSSKLWKTPPETKPRELVSMTSCEPFGKEGILIKIPAVISHRTESHV
 KPGRLTVLVSGLEIHDSSLLMHRFEREDVDDIKVHSPYEISIRQRFIGKPD MAYRLISAKMPEVPIILEV
 QFSKKMELLEDAVLRSARTSSPAEKSCSVWHAASGLMGRTLHREPPAGDQEGTALHLQTSLPALSE
 ADTQELTQILRRMKGLALEAESELERQDEALDGVA AVDRATLTIDKHNRRMKRLT

Table 2.2: Databases used for the identification of E3 ubiquitin ligases that interact with SNAP-25 via structure-based searches.

Database for Predicting E3 ligases that interact	Data collection methods	Data collection sources
Ubibrowser 1.0 and 2.0	Ubibrowser is a comprehensive, evidencebased database used for the identification of known and predicted ubiquitin ligase/deubiquitinasesubstrate interactions in eukaryotic species.	Manual curation (PubMed), protein GO annotation, protein domain, protein motif and network topology
BLAST: Basic Local Alignment Search Tool	Basic Local Alignment Search Tool is used to compare sequence information, allowing DNA or protein query sequences to determine sequence homology.	Accession number(s), gi(s), or FASTA sequence(s) are inputted by the user and databases (PubMed, GenBank, and PMC)
UniProt	UniProt: open open-access protein sequences database.	Protein sequences from translations of coding sequences.

2.2.8 Disease association bioinformatic approach to support identified E3 ligases which may interact with SNAP-25

I created the disease-informed approach to extend known candidate interactions. I used literature to focus on E3 ligases implicated in disorders with which SNAP-25 has an established association. These were cross-referenced to investigate if there was a linkage between SNAP-25 and E3 ligase activity-related diseases.

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Initially, the databases DisGenNET V7.0 (<https://www.disgenet.org/>) (Accessed December 2021) (Table 2.3) and PubMed (See Table 2.3 for further information) were utilised using the search terms “SNAP-25” for the former and “SNAP-25 disorder, SNAP-25 brain disease” for the latter. This produced two lists of disorders for which there is literature to support an association with SNAP-25. The list produced by DisGenNET V7.0 was then filtered for the terms mental disorders and nervous system disease, which were assigned by the database. The lists were assessed and the disorders ranked based on whether an association was a genetic, biochemical or an inferred association. PubMed was then used again to identify E3 ligases for which there is evidence for a role in each of the disorders using the search term “(name of disorder) and E3 ligase”. Initially, abstracts were searched then the articles were assessed for the literature for strength of association was then used to produce the final list of E3 candidates. The E3 ligases with the strongest supporting evidence of a genetic, biochemical or inferred association or that were involved in the most disorders with a downregulation of SNAP-25, were classed as strong candidates and were taken with evidence from other streams.

Table 2.3: **Additional Databases used for the identification of E3 ubiquitin ligases that interact with SNAP-25 via disease association-based searches.**

Database for Candidate Approach	Data collection methods	Data collection sources
DisGenNET V7.0	Human gene and variants associated with diseases. Integration of data is by means of gene and disease vocabulary mapping and the DisGeNET association type ontology	Data is integrated from curated repositories: UniProt, CTD, Orphanet, ClinGen, Genomics England, CGI, PsyGeNET. Animal models: RGD, MGD, CTD. Literature: LHGDN, BEFREE. Inferred: HPO, CliVar, GWAS catalogues, GWAS Database.

2.2.9 Interrogation of literature to identify proteomic screens of candidate E3 ligases

Once a list of E3 ligases that had the potential to interact with and ubiquitinate SNAP-25 had been produced (Sections 2.2.2 and 2.2.5). PubMed was used to investigate if there was literature to suggest a proteomic screen had been carried out on each protein using the search terms “E3 ligase name + proteomic screen” and “E3 ligase name + Screen”. If a proteomic screen was identified for an individual E3 ligase, both the main paper and any supplementary data were investigated for evidence of SNAP-25 being included as a candidate interactor.

2.2.10 AlphaFold Multimer used for the prediction of interaction between SNAP-25 and Parkin

The protein sequences for SNAP-25 and Parkin were downloaded from Uniprot:

>Parkin (O60260)

```
MIVFVRFNSSHGFPVEVSDTSIFQLKEVVAKRQGV PADQLRVIFAGKELRNDWTVQNC DLDQQSIV
HIVQRPWRKGQEMNATGGDDPRNAAGGCEREPQSLTRVDLSSSVLPGDSVGLAVILHTDSRKDSP
PAGSPAGRSIYNSFYVYCKGPCQRVQPGKLRVQCSTCRQATLTLTQGPSCWDDVLIPNRMSGECQ
SPHCPGTSAEFFFKCGAHPTSDKETSVALHLIATNSRNITCITCTDVRSPVLV FQCNSRHVICLDCFHL
YCVTRLNDRQFVHDPQLGYSLPCVAGCPNSLIKELHHFRILGEEQYNRYQQYGAEECVLQMGGVL
CPRPGCGAGLLPEPDQRKVTCEGGNGLGCGFAFCRECKEAYHEGECSAVFEASGTTTQAYRVDER
AAEQARWEAASKETIKTTKPCPRCHVPVEKNGGCMHMKCPQPQCRLWCWNCGCEWNRVCM
GDHWFDV
```

>SNAP25 (P60880)

```
MAEDADMRNELEEMQRRADQLADESLESTRRMLQLVEESKDAGIRTLV MLDEQGEQLERIEEGMD
QINKDMKEAEKNLTDLGKFCGLCVPCNKLKSSDAYKKAWGNNQDGVVASQPARVVDEREQMAIS
GGFIRRVTDARENEMDENLEQVSGIIGNLRHMALDMGNEIDTQNRQIDRIMEKADSNKTRIDEAN
QRATKMLGSG
```

The sequences were combined in a single FASTA, which was uploaded to the AlphaFold2 Colabfold model v3 (Jumper et al., 2021) hosted by Cosmic² (Cianfrocco *et al.*, 2017) (April 2025) Alpha fold predicted 5 models for Parkin and SNAP-25 to interact, all with low confidence, with regard to the predicted template modelling (pTM) score and the interface predicted template modelling (ipTM) score (EMBL-EBI, April 2025). The highest-ranked prediction was then visualised using the software PyMOL 3.1.4.1 and the domains of Parkin highlighted.

2.3 Molecular biology

2.3.1 Genomic DNA extraction from cells

Genomic DNA was extracted from cultured PC12 cells. 100 µl lysis buffer (NaCl 100mM, SDS 0.5%, EDTA 10 mM, Tris pH8 10 mM, protease K 0.4 mg/ml) was added to the cells, which were scraped and extracted into an Eppendorf tube that was heated to 54 °C for one hour. The samples were centrifuged (Sigma 1-14K microcentrifuge) for 10 minutes at 20,000 xg, and the supernatant was removed. 50 µl of isopropanol was added to 50 µl of the supernatant and mixed by pipetting. The samples were spun at 16000 xg for 5 minutes to pellet the genomic DNA. The supernatant was

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removed, and the pellet was washed twice in 100 μ l of 70% ethanol with pelleting. The ethanol was removed, and the pellet was then centrifuged for 5 minutes at 16000 xg. The pellet was air-dried and then resuspended in 50 μ l RNAase-free water

2.3.2 RNA extraction from cells

RNA was extracted from cultured immortalised cell cultures using the RNeasy Mini kit (Qiagen). Briefly media was removed from the cells. For a 12-well plate, cells were lysed with 350 μ l of RLT buffer, and for a 6-well 600 μ l of RLT buffer. The lysate was removed and homogenised by vortexing (Vortex-Genie 2) for 1 minute at room temperature. The extracted RNA was purified using the RNeasy spin columns and eluted into 30 μ l RNase-free water (Qiagen RNeasy kit). The RNA concentration was estimated using the nanodrop spectrophotometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific), and RNA integrity was determined by running 1 μ g of RNA on a 1% agarose gel and determining the 28S:18S values.

2.3.3 RNA Quality Assessment

The RNA purity and yield were determined by spectroscopy with a Nanodrop2000[®]; 1 μ l of eluted total or mRNA was measured between 230-280nm, with absorbance values used to calculate concentration. The ratios of absorbance at 260/230 nm and 260/280nm were used to assay purity. To assay RNA degradation, 1 μ g of RNA was resolved on a 1% agarose gel with gel electrophoresis in TAE performed at 80V. The gel was then imaged on a UV imager and the 28:18S rRNA (ribosomal RNA) ratios were calculated with a ratio of \sim 2 considered good quality intact RNA (Figure 2.4).

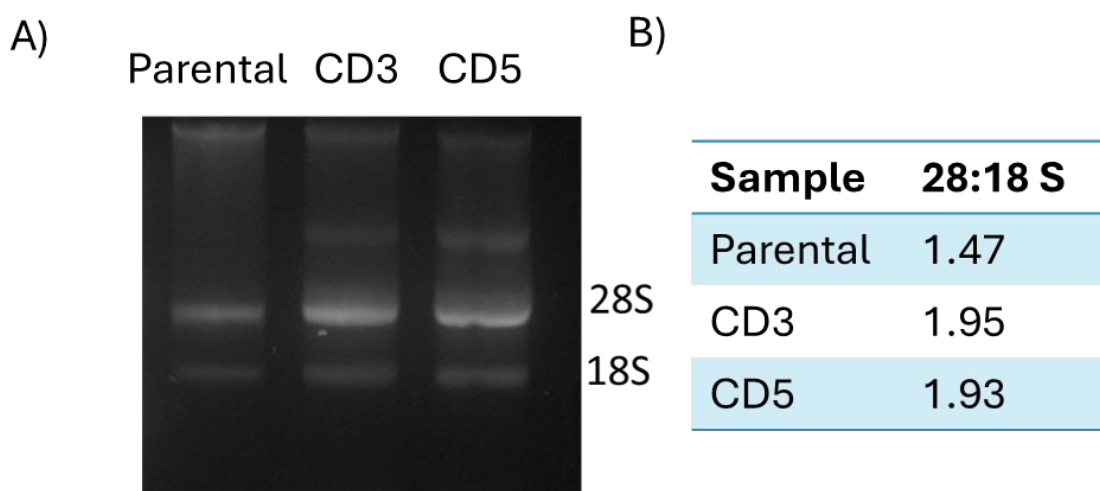


Figure 2.4: RNA Quality Assessment. RNA (1 μ g) from parental and CSP α deficient PC12 cells visualisation of 28:18S rRNA on a 1% agarose gel. A) Gel electrophoresis of 1ug total RNA extracted from parental and CSP α -deficient 3 and 5 PC12 cells. B) The intensity of the 28:18S rRNA for the corresponding samples, indicating RNA integrity.

2.3.4 cDNA synthesis

200 ng of purified total RNA (section 2.3.2) was reverse transcribed with the Precision nanoScript 2 reverse transcription kit (Primer Design Eastleigh, UK) according to the manufacturer's instructions. These reactions were performed in thin-walled PCR tubes, carried out as indicated (Table 2.4). The reactions were incubated in the Applied Biosystems or BioRad T100 Thermal cycler under the conditions shown in Table 2.5. cDNA was stored at -20 °C.

Table 2.4: Components and Volumes required for reverse transcription

Components	Volume μ l per reaction
NanoScript 2 4x buffer	5
NanoScript 2 enzyme	1
dNTP mix (10 mM)	3
Oligo-DT primer (0.2 nM)	1
Total RNA sample (200 ng)	Variable
Nuclease-free water	Variable
Total	20

Table 2.5: Conditions required for reverse transcription using thermocycler (GeneAmp PCR system 9700, Applied Biosystems, or BioRad T100 Thermal cycler)

Step	Temperature (°C)	Time (minutes)
Annealing	65	5
Extension	42	20
Heat inactivation	75	10

2.3.5 Primer design for end-point cDNA and genomic PCR

Primers (Eurofins genomic) (Table 2.6 for identification, Table 2.14 for cloning primers) were designed using the NCBI Primer Blast tool. The criteria used included: 18-24 bases in length (longer for cloning), melting temperature between 55°C – 65°C, ideally an amplicon size of between 70-200 bases and a guanine-cytosine content of between 40-70%. Oligonucleotide Analyser by IDTDNA was used to ensure the primers didn't contain hairpin structures or would self- or hetero dimerize. The cDNA primers were designed across exon-exon boundaries to allow the detection of genomic DNA

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contamination. For genomic DNA, primers were designed in intronic regions. All primers were obtained from Eurofins Genomics.

Table 2.6: Primer pairs for end-point identification PCR experiments for murine samples and PC12 samples. Bp-base pair, FWD- forward primers, REV-reverse primer, T_A – annealing temperature.

Gene	Sequence 5-3 prime	Predicted amplicon size (bp)	T _A (°C)
SNAP-25 Mouse	FWD CTG GCT GAT GAG TCC CTG GAA AGC ACC C REV TCC CGG GCA TCA TTT GTT ACC CTG CGG	368	65
SNAP-25 Rat	FDW GCT GTG CTC TCC TCC AAT GT REV AGG AAG TCA GAA ACT GAG AGA TCC	138	64
GAPDH Mouse	FWD TGA ACG GGA AGC TCA CTG G REV TCC ACC ACC CTG TTG CTG TA	307	58
GAPDH RAT	FWD TGA ACG GGA AGC TCA CTG G REV ACA GGA GAC AAC CTG GTC CT	182	55
CSP α RAT cDNA	FWD ACT AAC CTA ACA TGG CTG ACC REV CAT GAT TCT AAG GTT GCA GTG GC	671	52
CSP α across sgRNA_3 Genomic	FWD AGT TAA CTT GTC AGA CAT GAC A REV GAT TAA AGG CAT TCG TCA CCA	402	50
CSP α across sgRNA_5 Genomic	FWD CTG GTT CCA GAG AGG TAG CCA G REV ACA AAC ACT CTC GGC ACA GTG	635	57
TRKB RAT	FWD GCT GAC GAG TTT GTG CAG GA REV TGG CTC CGT TGT AGA ACC AC	591	55
ACTIN RAT	FWD CAG CCT TCC TTC TTG GTA TG REV AGC TCA GTA ACA GTC CGC CT	360	52

2.3.6 End-point Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

REDTaq Ready-mix PCR mix (Sigma-Aldrich) was used as the reagent for end-point reactions. A master mix was made according to Table 2.7. The master mix (24 μ l) was aliquoted into each PCR

tube, and then 1 µl of cDNA template was added. The reaction was incubated (GeneAmp PCR system 9700, Applied Biosystems or BioRad T100 Thermal cycler) as described in steps outlined in Table 2.8.

Table 2.7: Components and volumes of reagents used in end-point PCR reactions.

Component	Volume per reaction µl
REDtaq Ready-mix PCR Reaction mix	12.5
Nuclease-free water	10.5
Indicated Forward Primer (10mM)	0.5 (0.2 mM)
Indicated Reverse Primer (10 mM)	0.5 (0.2 mM)
Indicated Template cDNA	1 (0.4 mM)
Total	25

Table 2.8. Conditions for RED TAQ end-point PCR reactions.

	Step	Temperature	Time
	Initial denaturation	94 °C	2 min
Variable number of cycles 25-35	Denaturation	94 °C	1 min
	Annealing	Variable (Table 2.6)	30 sec
	Extension	72°C	1 kb/ 30 sec
	Final Extension	72 °C	10 min
	Hold	10 °C	∞

2.3.7 Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) for cDNA cloning.

Primers (Eurofins genomic) were used to amplify cDNA (Section 2.3.4) for each primer pair, see Table 2.14. The PCR components are outlined in Table 2.9, and parameters are outlined in Table 2.10. The amplification was initially authenticated by resolving the products of the reaction using gel electrophoresis (Section 2.3.8)

Table 2.9: Volumes of reagents used for PCR reaction to generate inserts for molecular cloning.

Component	Volume (µl)
5 x Q5 Reaction Buffer	10
10 mM dNTPs	1 (0.2 nM)
10 µM Forward Primer	1 (0.2 mM)
10 µM Reverse Primer	1 (0.2 mM)
Template DNA	Variable
Q5 High-Fidelity DNA polymerase	0.5
Filtered- distilled water	Up to 50 µl

Table 2.10: Conditions used for PCR reaction when using Q5 polymerase

Step	Temperature (°C)	Time (seconds)
Initial denaturing	98	30
Denaturing	98	10
Primer Annealing (table)	60-72 (as indicated)	10-30
Extension	72	30 seconds/Kb*
Final Extension	72	600*
Hold	10	∞

*Optimal settings variable for different sets of primers

The conditions used for 25-35 cycles for PCR reactions with Q5 polymerase.

2.3.8 Agarose gel electrophoresis

Agarose powder (0.8 g) was suspended in 80ml of 1x TAE buffer (40mM Tris acetate and 1 mM EDTA), and the solution was heated in the microwave for ten-second intervals until fully dissolved. The molten agarose was allowed to cool until it could be held comfortably (~3-5 minutes), and 8 µl of Gel-red (10,000x stock in water, Biotium) was added. The gel was poured into a gel cassette with a comb inserted and allowed to solidify (Fisherbrand Verti-Gel Electrophoresis system). The gel was placed in an electrophoresis tank containing 1x TAE buffer. Samples were prepared by the addition of quick loading dye (ThermoFisher Scientific 6x DNA loading dye). After solidifying, the comb was removed, and a DNA ladder (100 bp plus or 1KB plus gene ruler) and samples were loaded into individual wells. The gel was resolved using 120 volts (V) for between 45-90 minutes. The DNA sample gels were visualised at wavelength of 600 nm using a UV transilluminator and documented using the G: BOX (Syngene) imager.

2.3.9 PCR/Gel Clean-up of amplified cDNA

PCR products were purified directly from the PCR reactions (Section 2.3.6 or 2.3.7) or following purification through agarose gels. In the latter case, the PCR was run through a gel and visualised on a UV light box set to low illumination strength (Benchmark Accuris MyView Compact UV Transilluminator) (Section 2.3.8). A clean scalpel was used to excise the selected resolved DNA fragment. In both cases, the DNA was extracted and purified using Macherey-Nagel Nucleospin gel and PCR clean-up kit following the manufacturer's instructions (Macherey-Nagel).

2.3.10 Determining DNA concentration

The DNA concentration and quality of isolated plasmids and cDNA were estimated using a spectrophotometer (Thermo Fisher NanoDrop 2000c UV-Vis) with absorbance at 260 nm. Before measuring DNA concentration, the spectrophotometer was blanked with the 1 µl of the buffer the

DNA was dissolved in. Then, 1 μl of each sample was loaded onto the nanodrop to determine the concentration of the DNA.

2.3.11 Annealing of oligos

Oligonucleotides used for the generation of the guide RNA to be cloned in the P-Lenti CRISPR vector (source Addgene #52961) were annealed by combining the components listed in Table

2.11. The mixture was incubated at 37 °C for 30 minutes, then at 95 °C for 5 minutes before being allowed to cool down to 4 °C at a rate of 0.1 °C per second. The 10 μl reaction was then diluted in 250 μl of DDH₂O.

Table 2.11: Components required for the annealing and phosphorylation of oligos.

Component	Volume (Total 10 μl)
T4 PNK (10 U/ μL)	0.5 μl (5 units)
DD water	6.5 μl
T4 ligase buffer (x10)	1 μl (1x)
Forward oligo (100 μM)	1 μl (10 μM)
Reverse oligo (100 μM)	1 μl (10 μM)

2.3.12 Restriction digest of DNA insert and plasmid backbone

A template for restriction digestion reactions was as listed in Table 2.12. The reaction mixtures were incubated at 37 °C for 60 minutes. Digested plasmids were resolved by gel electrophoresis (MultiSUB Choice, Horizontal electrophoresis system) and extracted from the gel (Sections 2.3.8 and 2.3.9) after visualisation. For specific reagents used in cloning reactions, see sections 2.4.

Table 2.12: Reagents and volumes used for restriction digest reactions* general volume used, volume dependent on the unit activity for the specific restriction enzyme.

Component	Quantities for 20 μl reaction (Promega)	Quantities for 10 μl reaction (NEB)
DNA	1 μg	1 μg
Restriction enzyme 1 (10 units/ 1 μl)	0.5 μl * (5 units)	0.5 μl * (5 units)
Restriction enzyme 2 (10 units/ 1 μl)	0.5 μl (5 units)	0.5 μl (5 units)
10X RE Buffer	2 μl (1x)	1 μl (1x)
Bovine serum albumin (BSA)	0.2 μl (0.1 mg/ml)	N/A
Filtered distilled water	Up to 20 μl	Up to 10 μl

2.3.13 Ligation reaction of the vector and insert

Purified restriction enzyme-digested vectors and PCR products (Section 2.3.9) were ligated with T4 DNA ligase (NEB) (Table 2.13). The molar ratios for each ligation were calculated using the formula in Equation 1. The T4 DNA ligase reaction mix was then incubated at RT for 15 minutes.

$$kb \text{ of insert} \div kb \text{ of vector} \times ng \text{ of vector} = ng \text{ of insert needed for a 1:1 ratio}$$

Equation 2.1 : Calculation to determine the amount of insert required for a 1:1 molar ratio

Table 2.13: Components and volumes required for ligation reaction of vector and insert.

* general volume used, volume dependent on specific reaction.

Reagent	Vector: Insert mole ratio			
	Vector only control	1:1	1:3	1:5
Vector (µl)	1	1	1	1
Insert (µl)	0	1*	3*	5*
10X T4 Ligase Buffer (µl)	1	1	1	1
T4 DNA Ligase (µl)	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Filtered distilled water (µl)	Up to 10 µl	Up to 10 µl	Up to 10 µl	Up to 10 µl

2.3.14 Bacterial Agar Plate Preparation

Solid LB (Lysogeny Broth) agar (100 ml in water) from the media kitchen (School of Biological Sciences) was melted in the microwave once cooled to approximately 55°C either ampicillin (0.1%, 100 mg/ml) or kanamycin (0.1% 50mg/ml) antibiotic was added to the flask under sterile conditions to a final concentration of 100 µg/ml or 50 µg/ml respectively. The melted supplemented agar was poured into 10 cm sterile petri dishes and left to set. Once set, the plates were wrapped in Clingfilm and stored at 4 °C until required and used up to 14 days later.

2.3.15 Bacterial transformation

DH5α chemically competent *E. coli* cells (NEB) or STABLE 3 *E. coli* cells (Invitrogen) were placed on ice for 20 minutes and allowed to thaw. 2.5 µl of the ligation mix (Section 2.3.13) was put on ice, and 25 µl of thawed competent cells were added and mixed with the pipette tip. The cells were incubated on ice for 30 minutes, then heat shocked in a water bath at 42 °C for 30 seconds. The mixture was

then incubated on ice for a further 2 minutes. 150 µl Super Optimal broth with catabolite repression (SOC) growth media (NEB; 2% vegetable peptone, 0.5% yeast extract, 10 mM NaCl, 2.5 mM KCl, 10 mM MgCl₂, 10 mM MgSO₄, and 20 mM Glucose) was added and the mix was incubated at 37°C for DH5α or 30°C for STABLE 3 cells for one hour. The whole mix or aliquots thereof were spread on LB agar plates (Section 2.3.14), which had been pre-warmed to 37°C. The plates were left to dry before being incubated overnight at 37 °C for DH5α or 30°C for STABLE 3 cells.

2.3.16 Plasmid expression and mini-prep

Transformed bacterial colonies (Section 2.3.15) were identified based on growth on the indicated selective antibiotic. Candidates were picked from the plates and cultured in 3 ml LB media. The culture was incubated at 37 °C overnight in the shaking incubator. The culture was centrifuged at 4,000 x g for 5 minutes at 4 °C. The bacterial pellet was processed to extract plasmid DNA using the Macherey-Nagel NucleoSpin Plasmid DNA kit. After which, 50 µl of elution buffer was used to elute the DNA, which was quantified using absorbance at 260 nm (NanoDrop).

2.3.17 Restriction digest screening

Restriction digest (Section 2.3.12) was carried out to screen for correct plasmid subcloning. The DNA isolated from colonies that displayed the predicted restriction digest were sent to Eurofins Genomic for Sanger sequencing in the forward and reverse directions. The chromatograms were inspected for precision, and the cDNA sequences were aligned with digital plasmid maps.

2.3.18 Generation of Myc BioID constructs

Cloning was carried out as depicted in the scheme in Figure 2.5 below to produce a MycBioID-SNAP-25 and Figure 2.6 for Myr-Myc-BioID constructs using the primers in Table 2.14.

Table 2.14: Primers and restriction enzymes used to generate Bio-ID reagents.

Gene	Sequence	Restriction enzyme	Expected size (bp)
p-mycSNAP-25BioID	FWD 5-GAT CGA ATT CTG CCG AAG ACG CAG ACA TGC GC-3 REV 3-GAT CGT CGA CTT AAC CAC TTC CCA GCA TC -5	EcoR1 Sal1	621
p-myc-MYR-BioID	FWD 5-GAT CAC CGG TTA TGG AAC AAA AAC TCA TCT CAG AA-3 REV 3-GAT CGC GGC CGC CTT CTC TGC GCT TCT CAG GGA GA-5	AgeI 1 Not 1	996

2.3.19 Generation of Myc-BioID-SNAP-25

The SNAP-25 cDNA was amplified flanked by 5' and 3' sequences as described in Table 2.14. The insert and the Myc-BioID vector were digested with EcoR1 and Sal1, producing complementary overhangs. To screen for the production of the desired product from the cloning, a diagnostic restriction digest of the purified product using Sal1 and Ecor1 RE's, the Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 plasmid produced an insert of 600 bp, likely indicating successful generation of the construct, which was then confirmed by Sanger and whole plasmid sequencing (Figure 2.5).

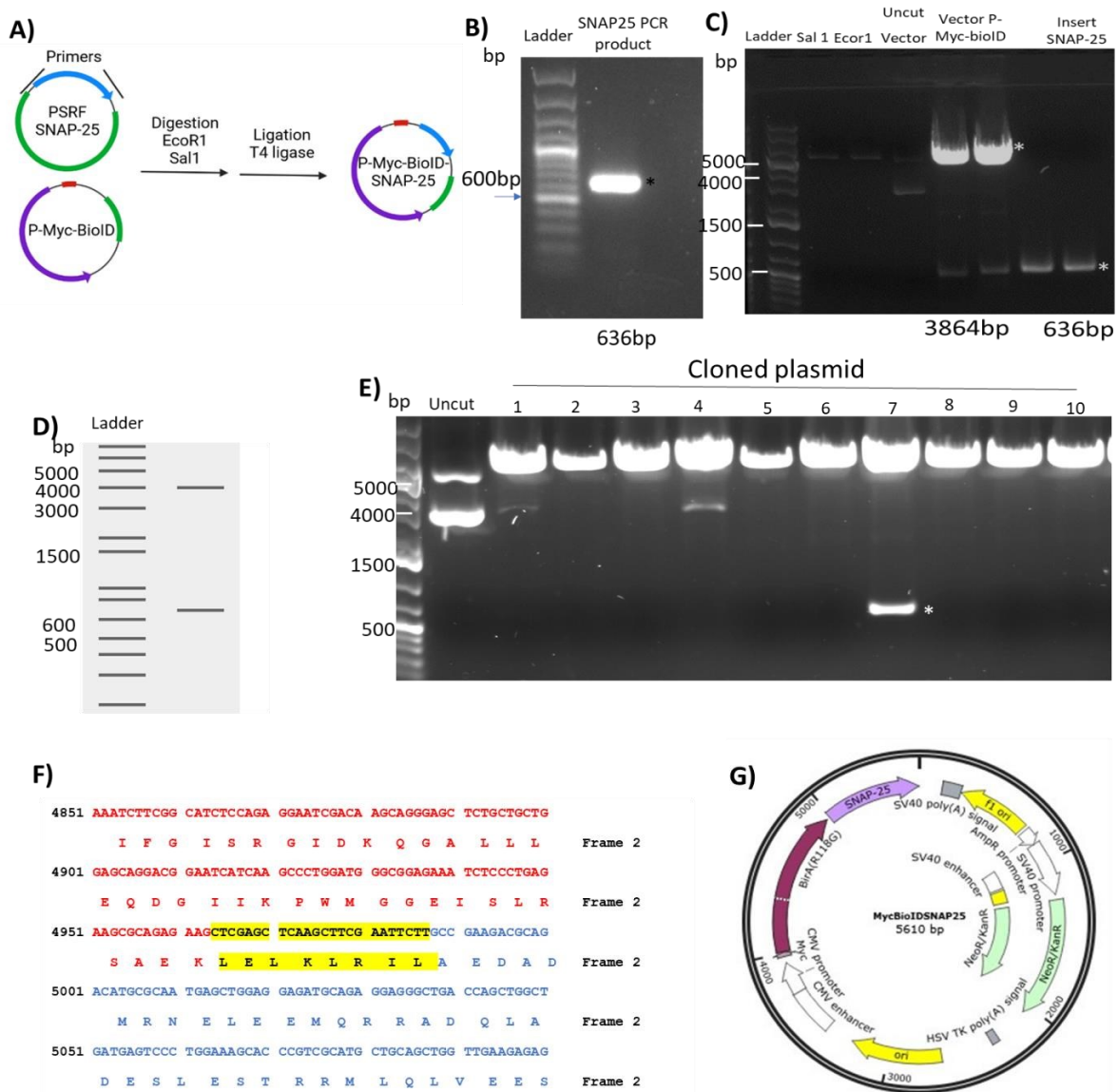


Figure 2.5: Generation of the p-Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 plasmid via cloning of the SNAP-25 insert from PRSF vector backbone into the Myc-BioID vector.

A) Schematic workflow of cloning strategies for the generation of p-Myc-BioID-SNAP-25.

Forward and reverse primers were designed to amplify the SNAP-25, which was digested with the restriction enzymes indicated and ligated into the P-Myc BioID backbone. B) PCR amplification of the SNAP-25 insert, with amplified product marked with an asterisk. C) Digest of Myc-BioID vector and the SNAP-25 insert with Sal1 and EcoRI. D) Expected gel pattern when MycBioID-SNAP25 are digested in silico with Sal1 and EcoRI. E) Diagnostic test digest results for the cloned construct digested with Sal1 and EcoRI, with an asterisk sequencing of the insert. F) Sequenced results of the construct with red sequence depicting the end of the BioID construct, the yellow highlighted region the linker and the blue region highlighting the start of the SNAP-25 sequence. G) Plasmid map of P- Myc-BioID-SNAP25 construct generated from whole plasmid sequencing, SNAP25 is in frame with the Myc-tagged BioID construct.

2.3.20 Generation of Myr-Myc-BioID

The Myc-BioID sequence was amplified and isolated from p-Myc-BioID plasmid (primers in Table 2.14). The specific forward and reverse primers flanked the MYC-BioID region. The forward primer began with a GGATCC sequence, followed by an AgeI restriction site, followed by a linker and 25 Nucleotides of the sense strand of the Myc BioID coding region. The reverse primer flanked the sequence with a NotI restriction site, followed by a linker, then 23 nucleotides complementary to the antisense strand of the Myc BioID coding region.

Both the Myc-BioID insert and the Myr-GFP plasmid vector were digested with AgeI and NotI, facilitating the removal of the GFP sequence to provide complementary overhangs. To screen for the production of the desired product from the cloning, a diagnostic restriction digest test was done on the purified product using AgeI and NotI RE's the Myr-Myc-BioID plasmid produced an insert to be cut out of 1004 bp, which was sent for sequencing whilst the plasmid containing the GFP would release an insert of 720 bp (Figure 2.6).

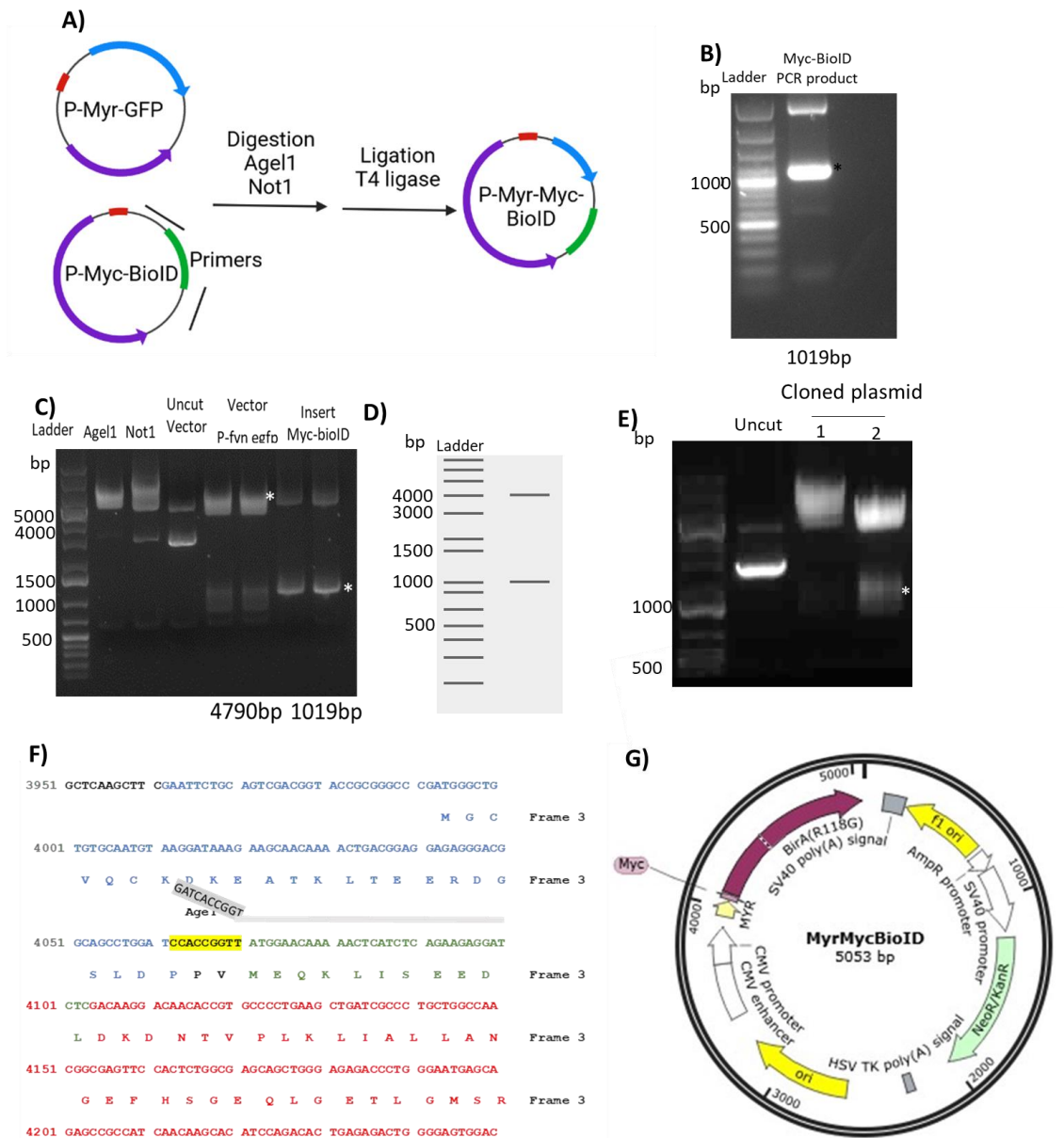


Figure 2.6: Molecular cloning of the Myr-Myc-BioID construct. A) Schematic workflow of cloning strategies for the generation of P-Myr-Myc-BioID. Forward and reverse primers were designed to amplify the Myc-BioID inserts from the p-Myc BioID vector backbone. Inserts of what were amplified using PCR, digested with the restriction enzymes indicated, were ligated into the P-Myr, which removed the GFP sequence. B) Gel depicting the amplified Myc BioID fragment with an asterisk. C) Digest of Myr-GFP vector and the Myc BioID insert with AgeI and NotI. D) In silico gel pattern when p-Myr Myc BioID was digested with AgeI and NotI. E) Diagnostic digest with AgeI and NotI, an asterisk indicating the presence of a band of 1004 bp consistent with successful production of Myr-Myc-BioID. F) Sequenced construct showing in blue Myr sequence, linker (yellow) between Myr and Myc, the green sequence corresponds to Myc tag and the red sequence is BioID. Forward Primer is depicted in grey. G) Plasmid map of p-Myr-Myc BioID, authenticated whole plasmid sequencing, Myr mysterilated protein with the Myc-tagged BioID construct forming P-Myr-Myc-BioID.

2.4 Generation of reagents for CRISPR cell line generation

2.4.1 Designing sgRNAs for genetic knockdown in Cell lines

Optimal signal guide RNAs (sgRNAs) were selected based on established criteria (Doench et al., 2016). The software CRISPick was used to identify sites which could be used for the disruption of the DNAJC5 gene (Figure 2.7) in the *Rattus norvegicus* genome. SpyoCas, which identifies the PAM site NGG with Hsu, was input as the cutting enzyme and tracrRNA. Five potential sites (Figure 2.7) with no off-target homology or mismatches were mapped to the DNAJC5 gene: one in exon three, three in exon four and one in exon five.

Primers were designed to subclone the gRNAs into the lentiCRISPRv1 puro plasmid. CACC and AAAC were added to the sense and antisense primers, respectively, generating two BsmB1 sites to allow the required RNA sequences to be subcloned. All the selected oligomer sequences are 20 nucleotides long, but a G is added to increase the efficiency of Cas binding if there is not already one present (Table 2.15).

2.4.2 Cloning to generate Lenti CRISPR V1 plasmid containing sgRNA

Primer pairs for each of the indicated oligos in Table 2.15 were annealed and phosphorylated with T4 PNK (Section 2.3.11). With the naming of the oligos indicating which exon the guide is targeting, i.e. DNAJC5_sgRNA3 targeting exon 3 and DNAJC5_sgRNA5 targeting exon 5.

Table 2.15: Guide RNA used for the generation of CSP α knockout PC12 cells, with sequence and Forward and Reverse primers used to generate the oligos to clone into the PLenti CRISPR vector.

Guide RNA IDs	RNA sequence with the PAM sequence and the additional G if added.	Forward primer	Reverse primer
DNAJC5_s gRNA3	GAACATGGTATAACGATTCC CCGG	CACCGAACATGGTATA ACGATTCCC	AAACGGGAATCGTTATA CCATGTTC
DNAJC5_s gRNA4A	GATGACAAGTATGGCTCGC TGGGG	CACCGATGACAAGTAT GGCTCGCTG	AAACCAGCGAGCCATA CTTGTCATC
DNAJC5_s gRNA4B	GGCGTCTGTCAGGATTGCG TGGG	CACCGCGTCTGTCAG GATTGCGT	AAACACGCAATCCTGA CAGACGCC
DNAJC5_s gRNA4C	GCCAGCTGGAGAGTACGAA GTAGG	CACCGCCAGCTGGAG AGTACGAAGT	AAACACTTCGTA CTCTC CAGCTGGC
DNAJC5_s gRNA5	GCAGGCGCTGTTGTCGTC TGTGG	CACCGCAGGCGCTGTT CGTCGCTCTG	AAACCAGACGACGAAC AGCGCCTGC

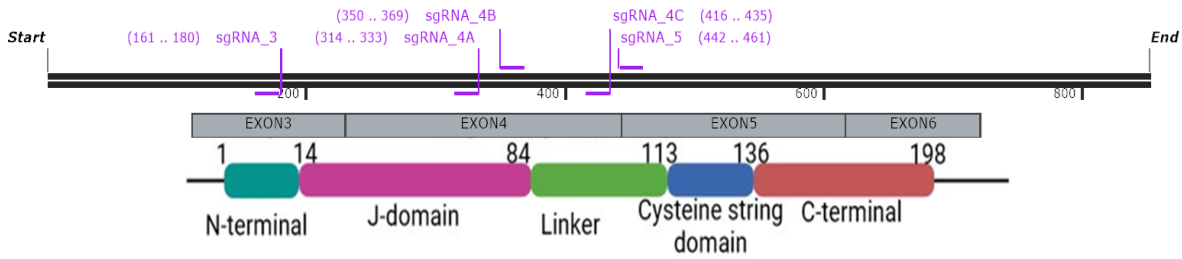


Figure 2.7: Position of guide RNA in the context of the CSP gene and encoded protein.

Coding exons of DNAJC5 mapped to the protein domains of CSP α and the placement of guide sequences in the gene code.

2.4.3 Digestion of Lenti CRISPR V1 plasmid

The Lenti CRISPR V1 plasmid containing the Cas9 cassette was used to sub-clone the oligonucleotide sequences with the restriction enzyme BsmB1 (Section 2.3.12). The vector has two BsmB1 cut sites, which, upon overnight cleavage at 55°C, led to the loss of an 1885 bp fragment, resulting in a 11565 bp linear vector which was dephosphorylated with Shrimp Alkaline Phosphatase (rSAP).

2.4.3 Ligation and test digest of Lenti CRISPR V1 plasmid

Ligation was carried out as described in section 2.3.13 and transformed in NEB stable cells as described in section 2.3.15.

A test digest using BsmB1 was carried out with both an uncut control and a digest of the backbone. In the case of the backbone, this led to the formation of two fragments, one at 1885 bp and the other at 11565 bp. In the presence of the insert, the vector appeared uncut due to the absence of BsmB1 recognition sites. One of each plasmid identified to potentially contain the insert was sent for sequencing using a primer in the U6 promoter (GAG GGC CTA TTT CCC ATC ATT CC). The chromatograms containing each oligo sequence in-frame are highlighted in Figure 2.8.

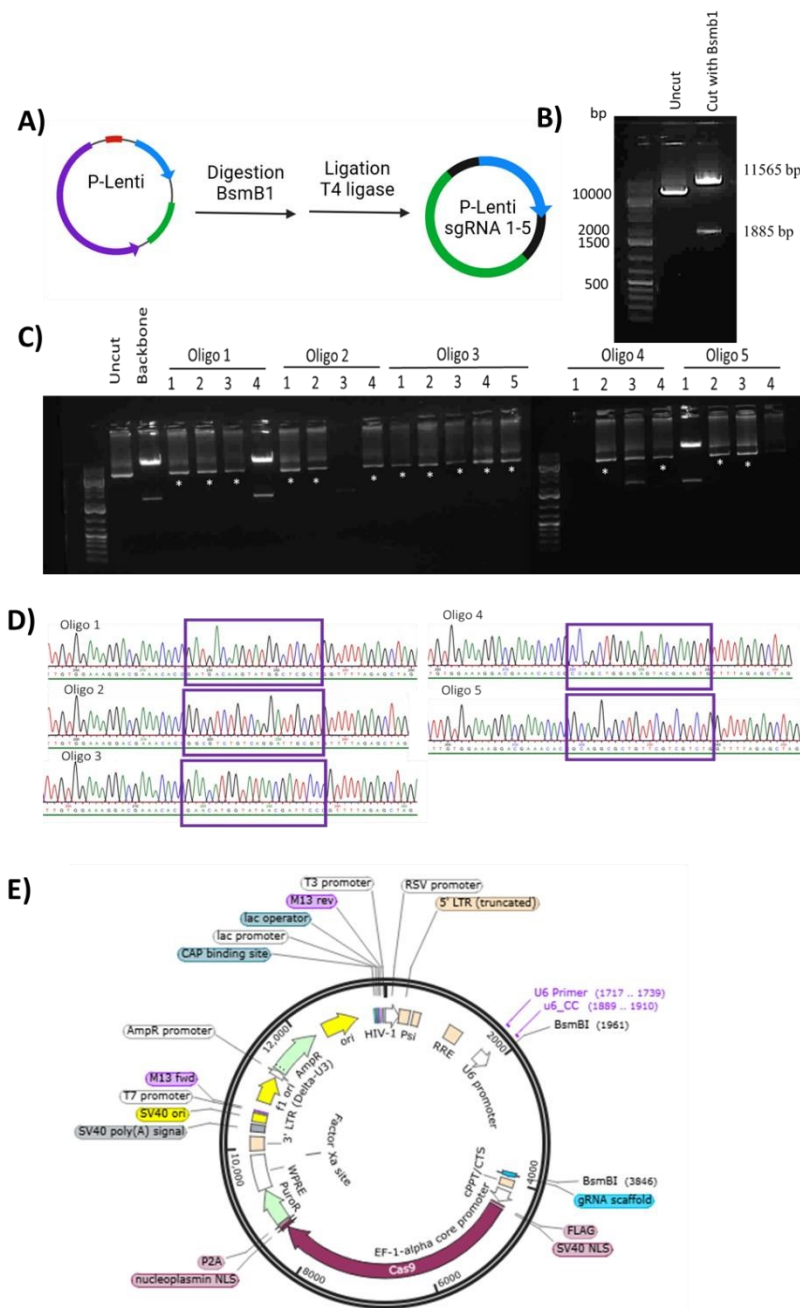


Figure 2.8: Generation of the Lenti CRISPR P-vectors plasmid. A) Schematic workflow of cloning strategies for the generation of P-Lenti with sgRNA 1-5 with 1 corresponding to sgRNA4A, 2: sgRNA4B, 3: sgRNA3, 4: sgRNA4C and 5: sgRNA5. B) Digest of the p-Lenti vector with BsmB1, generating a fragment at 1885bp and another at 11565bp. C) Diagnostic test digest to check for the presence of each of the guide RNAs cloned constructs using BsmB1. The White asterisk indicates the absence of digest, indicating the successful cloning of the oligos into the Lenti CRISPR V1 plasmid. E) Sequenced results of the construct; chromatogram depicting each guide cloned in frame into the Lenti CRISPR V1 plasmid.

2.4.4 Sequencing

Plasmids and PCR products were sent to Eurofins (Germany) for Sanger sequencing and/ or Next Generation sequencing (NGS) whole plasmid sequencing. FASTA sequences and base chromatograms were reviewed for quality and aligned to predicted sequences.

2.5 Cell culture

2.5.1 Preparation of glass coverslips

Glass coverslips (Dixon) were cleaned in 1N HCl by rocking agitation in a glass beaker for one hour. The coverslips were then washed three times for five minutes in double-distilled water. The washed coverslips were left on the rocker overnight in 70% ethanol, and fresh ethanol was added the following morning for prolonged storage. Coverslips were removed from storage and allowed to dry in cell culture plates. Dried coverslips were submerged in poly-D-lysine (PDL) (0.1 mg/ml) or Poly-L-Ornithine Solution (POL) (0.1 mg/ml) (Sigma) made up in double-distilled water and incubated at 37°C overnight. The PDL was removed, and the coverslips were washed three times in sterile water for five minutes. Washed coverslips were left to air dry inside the fume hood, then stored at -20°C in cell culture plates until required.

2.5.2 Maintenance of HEK293FT Cells

HEK93FT cells were used for all initial BioID experiments due to their ease of use and high rate of transfection. For all experiments using HEK, HEK293FT cells (Oka et al., 2010). HEK293FT cells were maintained in 10 cm cell culture dishes in 10% FBS DMEM (with pyruvate, 4.5 g/l D-glucose and L-glutamine (4 mM)). Cells were passaged at 80-90% confluency, till passage 20. To passage, all conditioned media was removed and replaced with 5 ml of 1x PBS (phosphate-buffered saline) (without magnesium or calcium) to remove residual media. The PBS was removed, and cells were dissociated by incubation with 1 ml (Trypsin-EDTA solution 0.05% or 0.025%: Fischer Scientific) at 37 °C until the cells had visibly detached. The trypsin was inhibited by adding 7.5 ml 10% DMEM. The cells were dissociated by gently pipetting. The cell number was counted using a haemocytometer and diluted in 10% FBS DMEM, with 1×10^6 plated in a 10 cm dish. Cells were maintained through recorded passages and discarded before passage 20.

2.5.3 PC12 cells maintenance

PC12 cells were used as they are widely used in synaptic research due to the ability to develop presynaptic-like structures, form synaptic vesicle clusters and they provide a neuronal like cell model which is easier and less costly to work with than Primary and iPSC cultures (Iwasaki et al., 1997)

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were maintained in P75 cell culture flasks in 10% Horse serum, 5% FBS, DMEM (with pyruvate, 4.5 g/l D-glucose and L-glutamine (4 mM)). Cells were passaged every 2-3 days, the conditioned media was removed, and cells were washed with 5ml PBS till passage 20. The PBS was removed gently. 2 ml (Trypsin-EDTA solution 0.05% or 0.025%) (Fischer scientific) was added to the cells and incubated at 37 °C until they detached. The trypsin was inhibited with 7.5 ml 10% HS, 5% FBS and the cells were gently pipetted to disrupt cell clumps. Cells were split no more than 1 in 5 and generally at 1 in 2 or 1 in 3 for subsequent re-plating.

2.5.4 PC12 cells differentiation

Glass slides were placed in either a 10 cm dish or a 6-well plate and coated with PDL (Section 2.6.1). Cells are passaged as above and plated $2-3 \times 10^6$ per 10cm dish and 5×10^5 cells per well for a 6-well plate. Cells were left to grow for 24 hours before the media containing 10% HS and 5% FBS was removed and replaced with media containing 2% HS DMEM supplemented with 50 ng/ml NGF. The PC12 cells were then left for 3-5 days to differentiate before either the collection of lysate (Section 2.7.1) or cell fixation (Section 2.6.3).

2.5.5 Lipofectamine transfection of PC12 cells

PC12 cells were plated and allowed to adhere for 24 hours before being treated with Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen) and DNA plasmid (Table 2.17). During transfection the amounts indicated in Table 2.16 were used. Lipofectamine and the DNA plasmids were diluted into two separate Eppendorf tubes in Opti-MEM. The Lipofectamine and DNA solutions were combined and mixed by gentle pipetting. The transfection mixture was incubated at room temperature (RT) for 35 minutes before adding the indicated volumes to the media. The cells were exposed to the transfection mix overnight at 37°C. The media containing the transfection mix was then removed and replaced with either fresh PC12 growth or PC12 differentiation media 2ml for a 6-well, 1 ml for a 12-well, 8 ml for a 10 cm dish. The cells were returned to incubate at 37 C until required. For transfection of the MycBioID constructs, PC12 cells were plated and transfected in a 10 cm dish, and the reagents were scaled accordingly.

Table 2.16: Cell plating format and lipofectamine transfection reagent quantities

Cell format	Lipofectamine	DNA plasmid	Total OPTI-MEM
6 well plate	6 μ l	2 μ g	400 μ l
12 well plate	3 μ l	1 μ g	200 μ l
10 cm dish	24 μ l	8 μ g	1.5 ml

Table 2.17: cDNA plasmids used for transfection of PC12 cell cultures

Construct	Encodes	Backbone	Resistance	Source
Myr-GFP	Myristoylated GFP	p-EGFP	Kanamycin	Ed Skolnik lab (NYU)
Myc-BioID	Myc- BioID	P-EGFP	Kanamycin	Ryan <i>et al.</i> , 2020
Myr-Myc-BioID	Myristoylated Myc-BioID	p-EGFP	Kanamycin	Section 2.3
Myc-BioIDSNAP-25	Myc-tagged BioID SNAP-25 construct	p-EGFP-C1	Kanamycin	Section 2.3
HA-WT-Parkin	HA-tagged wildtype Parkin construct	pIRESpuro2	Ampicillin	Ryan <i>et al.</i> , 2020
HA-C431S-Parkin	HA tagged C431S Parkin construct	pIRESpuro2	Ampicillin	Ryan <i>et al.</i> , 2020

2.5.6 Polyethyleneimine (PEI) Transfection of HEK293FT cells

For transfection of HEK293FT cells with Polyethyleneimine (PEI) and DNA, the two components were used in a 3:1 v/v ratio, for a 6-well plate based on 2 µg per well. DNA 2 µg was diluted in 100 µl serum-free DMEM or OptiMEM and incubated at room temperature for 10 minutes. PEI 6 µl was added and incubated for a further 10 minutes at room temperature. The transfection volume was removed from each well and replaced with the transfection solution, which was then left for 24-48 hours, depending on the experiment.

2.5.7 MG-132 proteasome blocking

PC12 cells were plated in a 6-well plate, and after 24 hours, MG-132 (10µM) was added and incubated for 2, 6 or 8 hours before cell lysis (Section 2.7.1) or fixing (Section 2.6.3).

2.5.8 Generation of CSPα Knockdown cells PC12 cells

PC12 cells with a stable expression of TrkB were plated in a 6-well plate, and 24 hours later, at ~70% confluency, they were transfected (Section 2.5.5) with the lentiCRISPRv1 puro sgRNA-containing plasmids generated in Section 2.4 using Lipofectamine. 24 hours later, the transfection media was removed and both the transfected cells and an untransfected control were grown in media supplemented with puromycin (2 µg/ml). Once all the cells in the un transfected control had died,

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lines generated with the guides sgRNA_3, 4A, 4B, and 5 which survived the puromycin treatment and were maintained with the media being replaced every 3-4 days for 2 weeks before the cells were split into two populations one for maintenance and the other for lysing for Western blot (Figure 2.9). Once a knockdown in cell lines transfected with sgRNA3 and sgRNA5 was identified, these lines were termed PC12 CSP α -deficient exon3 (PC12 CD3) and PC12 CSP α -deficient exon5 (PC12 CD5). Stocks of these cells were frozen, and the cells were maintained in 10 cm dishes and passaged when they reached 80% confluence.

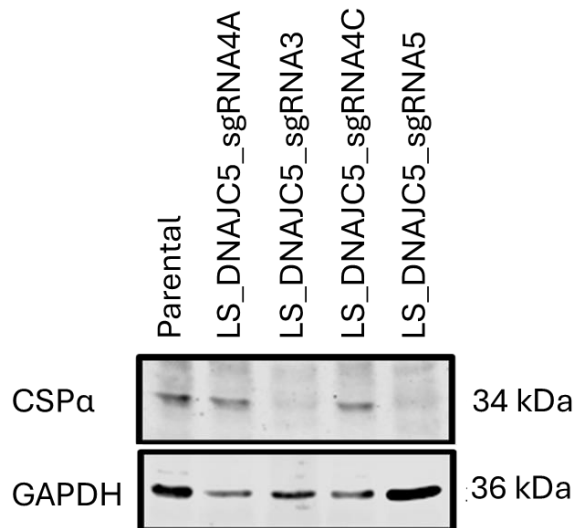


Figure 2.9 Identification of CSP α knockdown in two PC12 lines transfected with LS_DNAJC5_sgRNA guides in comparison to the parental line via Western blotting (Biological replicated N=1).

2.5.9 Cell proliferation assay

Parental PC12, Lenti Crispr, PC12 CSP α deficient cells 3 and 5 were plated at 250,000 cells each in triplicate and left to grow for 24, 48 or 72 hours before being detached and suspended in 1 ml of media, and live cells counted using trypan blue. The equation (number of cells counted dilution factor x 100,000)/ number of Squares counted was used to determine the number of cells present. The Malthusian growth nonlinear model was used to analyse proliferation, and data was plotted in GraphPad Prism version 9.

2.6 Imaging and Microscopy

2.6.1 Plating cells for Immunocytochemistry of immortal cell lines

HEK293FT and PC12 cells were plated in 6-well plates, containing 2 coverslips in each well for PC12 cells. POL (Poly-L-Ornithine Solution Sigma) was used to coat the coverslips before plating (Section 2.5.1).

2.6.2 Plasma membrane staining of cells

For plasma membrane staining, fluorescent Wheat germ agglutinin (WGA) conjugates, which act as a carbohydrate-binding molecule to cell surface sugars sialic acid and Nacetylglucosamine (Table 2.18), were diluted 1:1000 in ice-cold media and coverslips were incubated on ice with the stain for 15 minutes.

Table 2.18: WGA conjugates used for binding to cell surface sugars.

Dye	Dilution	Incubation	Supplier
WGA (Wheat Germ Agglutinin) Alexa 647 (1.0 mg/mL)	1:1000	15 mins on ice	Invitrogen™
WGA (Wheat Germ Agglutinin) Alexa 555 (1.0 mg/mL)	1:1000	15 mins on ice	Invitrogen™

2.6.3 Fixing and immunocytochemistry staining of immortal cell lines

The media was removed, and the cells were washed twice with 500 μ l cold PBS. The PBS was removed, and the cells were fixed with 500 μ l 4% PFA (paraformaldehyde in 1x PBS) (Sigma) for 15 minutes at room temperature. The incubation was quenched by the addition of 500 μ l of NH_4Cl (50 mM) in Tris Buffered Saline (TBS) for 5 minutes at room temperature. Cells were incubated in 500 μ l TBS containing 0.1 % Triton X-100 for 5 minutes at room temperature. This was removed, and the cells were then incubated in blocking buffer (TBS, 10% goat serum (v/v) 2% BSA (w/v)) at room temperature for 30 minutes. The coverslips were then incubated in primary antibody (Table 2.19) diluted in blocking buffer for 30 minutes at room temperature. The coverslips were washed with TBS three times for 5 minutes each. This was followed by incubating in the indicated secondary antibodies (and Alexa Fluor conjugate) (Table 2.20) (Alexa Fluor 488/555/647) diluted 1:1000 in blocking buffer solution and Hoechst stain diluted 1:5000 (Hoechst 33342 solution, Fisher Scientific) for 30 minutes. The cover slips were washed three times for five minutes in TBS before being mounted on T Eprepia™ Frosted Microscope Slides, Ground 45, 10-12 mm with ~8 μ l Mowiol glue (Mowiol 4-88, Glycerol, 0.2 M Tris HCl pH 8.5, H_2O).

Table 2.19: Primary antibodies used for immunostaining

Antibody	Dilution	Incubation	Immunogen	Reactivity	Supplier
SNAP-25	1:1000	30min RT IF	Rabbit IgG AA 1 to 206 from rat SNAP25B	Rabbit	SYSY
Myc	1:1000	30min RT IF	Mouse / IgG1 AA 408 to 438 of human c-myc	Mouse	Santa Cruz Biotechnology
GFP	1:1000	30min RT IF	Mouse / IgG1 GFP from the jellyfish Aequorea Victoria N- terminal peptide-KLH conjugated.	Mouse	Santa Cruz Biotechnology
GM130	1:1000	30min RT IF	Mouse IgG1, κ Rat GM130 aa. 869-982	Mouse	BD biosciences

Table 2.20: Secondary antibodies and fluorophore conjugates used for immunostaining of HEK293FT and PC12 cells

Antibody	Dilution	Incubation	Isotype	Host species	Supplier
AlexaFluor488	1:1000	30mins RT	IgG Mouse	Goat (polyclonal)	Invitrogen (A-21121)
AlexaFluor488	1:1000	30mins RT	IgG Rabbit	Goat (polyclonal)	Invitrogen (A-11059)
AlexaFluor555	1:1000	30mins RT	IgG Mouse	Goat (polyclonal)	Invitrogen (A-21422)
AlexaFluor555	1:1000	30mins RT	IgG Rabbit	Goat (polyclonal)	Invitrogen (A21429)
AlexaFluor647	1:1000	30mins RT	IgG Mouse	Goat (polyclonal)	Invitrogen (A21235)
AlexaFluor647	1:1000	30mins RT	IgG Rabbit	Goat (polyclonal)	Invitrogen (A21245)
Streptavidin Alexa 555	1:1000	30 mins RT	Alexa Fluor dye		Invitrogen™

2.6.4 Fluorescence microscopy

Fixed cell fluorescence imaging was done on the Olympus IX83 Inverted Fluorescence Microscope that utilized an OptiMOS CMOS 1920 x 1080-pixel camera (Photometrics, USA). The offset, gain and binning settings were kept constant between experiments. Images were captured in the DAPI, FITC, TRITC, and Cy-5 channels, using an LED-based light source. Fixed and stained

Coverslips were stored at 4°C in the dark. For each experiment, at least 3 fields of view of each coverslip and 3 separate coverslips were imaged.

2.6.5 Image analysis

Composite images were reconstituted from multiple single images and analysed using Fiji processing package (Schindelin et al., 2012).

2.7 Protein preparation and analysis

2.7.1 Preparation of Cell lysate from immortal cells

Cells were placed on ice, and the media was removed from each well. The cells were washed twice with cold PBS (1 ml/well). On ice, 100 µl of lysis buffer (Tris pH 7.5 50 mM, NaCl 140 mM, EDTA 2 mM, NP-40 1%, glycerol 10%) was added one at a time. The cells were scraped off the dish with a pipette tip, and the lysates were stored at -20 C.

2.7.2 Homogenisation of CSPα brain tissue

Between 250-300 mg of pooled frozen hippocampus and cortex (n=4) from CSPα -/- and age matched littermate controls (p13-p18) were resuspended in 10 w/v of ice-cold Sucrose/ HEPES buffer (Sucrose 320mM, HEPES 10mM). The tissue was homogenised with 10 up/down strokes at 900 rpm with a glass Teflon homogeniser with 0.10-0.15 mm clearance.

2.7.3 Protein assay

Serial dilutions of the indicated samples (undiluted, 1:5, 1:25) were analysed for protein concentration using the Bio-Rad D_c protein assay method as described in the manufacturer's instructions. Protein concentration was estimated by comparing test samples against a bovine serum albumin (BSA) standard curve (2 mg/ml- 0.25 mg/ml) diluted in the same buffers as the samples. Each of the samples was tested in triplicate and incubated for 20 minutes in the dark at room temperature before the absorbance was read at 690nm using a UV-Vis Microplate Reader (BioTek ELx800UV).

2.7.4 Sample preparation for SDS PAGE

Samples were thawed on ice and diluted with water to the desired concentration before the addition of 5X sample buffer (312.5 mM Tris (pH 6.8), 10% w/v SDS, 50% v/v glycerol, 25% v/v β-Mercaptoethanol and 0.005% v/v bromophenol blue). This was done to give a final concentration of

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0.3 mg/ml 1x Sample buffer concentration. The diluted samples were boiled at 95 °C for 5 minutes and centrifuged for 2 minutes at 16000 xg, before being loaded into wells in an SDS-PAGE gel.

2.7.5 SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE)

The Fischer Scientific gel system was used for the casting and running of the SDS-PAGE gels. The backing and spacer 1.5 mm (Fisher) glass plates were cleaned with 70% ethanol prior to use, and were assembled into the casting frame. The SDS-PAGE gels were cast in two parts, the lower resolving layer (Table 2.21) was poured and overlaid with isopropanol to remove bubbles until the acrylamide polymerised. The isopropanol was then removed, and the stacking layer was overlaid, a 12-well comb was inserted, and the stacking gel was allowed to polymerise.

Once set, the glass plates containing the gels were transferred to an SDS-PAGE electrophoresis tank, which was then filled with 1 x Laemmli buffer (25 mM Tris, 192 mM glycine and 1% SDS. The comb was removed, and samples from section 2.7.4 were loaded into the SDS-PAGE gel alongside Page Ruler Plus Pre-Stained Protein ladder (Abcam), 5 µl. The gels were initially run at 20 mA for 15 minutes, which allowed the protein to stack, then ran at 35 mA for 90 minutes until the dye front reached the bottom of the separating gel using the Fisherbrand™ Power Supply system.

Table 2.21: Components of the SDS-PAGE gels used for running protein samples

Gel	8%	10%	12%	15%	Stacking gel
30% Acrylamide/ Bis-Acrylamide	2.14 ml	2.67 ml	3.2 ml	3.73 ml	0.35 ml
1.5 M tris +10 % SDS (pH 8.8)	2 ml	2 ml	2 ml	2 ml	-
0.5 M tris +10 % SDS (pH 6.8)	-	-	-	-	0.67 ml
H ₂ O	3.86 ml	3.33 ml	2.8 ml	2.27 ml	1.67 ml
Ammonium persulfate 10%	80 µl	80 µl	80 µl	80 µl	26.6 µl
Tetramethylethylenediamine	8 µl	8 µl	8 µl	8 µl	2.67 µl

2.7.6 Coomassie gel staining

After electrophoresis (Section 2.7.5), the resolving and attached stacking gel was fixed and stained in Coomassie gel stain (Brilliant blue G colloidal concentrate, Sigma Life Science) for 1 hour at room temperature. Subsequently, the gel was incubated in de-stain (10% v/v Acetic acid, 25% v/v methanol) overnight at room temperature with mild agitation on a rocking platform. Alternatively, for increased detection sensitivity, Bio-Rad QC Colloidal Coomassie Stain was used. Gels were placed in fixing solution (40% ethanol, 10% acetic acid) (50 ml) with agitation for 15 mins and rinsed in

deionised water. QC colloidal Coomassie (50 ml) was added to the washed gel and incubated with gentle agitation at room temperature overnight. The Coomassie was removed and the gel destained in deionised water with three changes for an hour.

The de-stained gels were scanned and imaged using the Syngene imager. The images were stored and processed with the line scan function of the ImageJ software. This scanned line and derived intensity were used to produce intensity profiles, which score global protein amounts within each lane as indicated (Schindelin et al., 2012).

2.7.7 Electroblotting of proteins to nitrocellulose membrane

For Western blotting following SDS-PAGE electrophoresis (Section 2.7.5), the resolving and attached stacking gel were used to transfer separated proteins to a nitrocellulose membrane (ThermoFisher). This was done by placing the acrylamide gel against a nitrocellulose membrane between a sandwich composed of Whatman filter paper and a support sponge. The organisation of this sandwich is depicted (Figure 2.10). The support material was pre-soaked in 1x Laemilli buffer containing 20% v/v methanol.

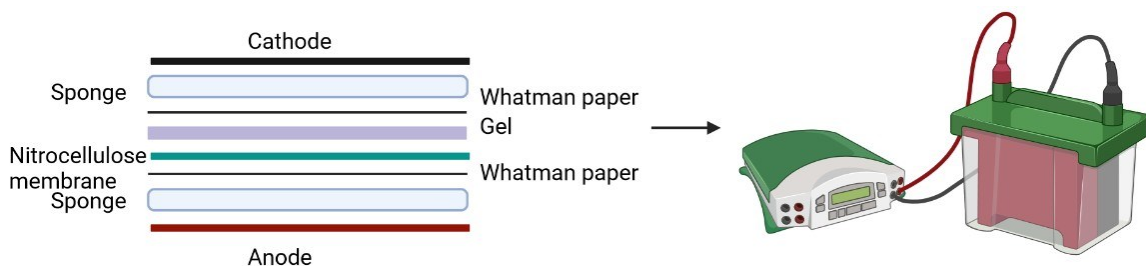


Figure 2.10: SDS-PAGE gel-nitrocellulose transfer sandwich. 2x outer sponge, 2x Whatman paper, the SDS-PAGE gel, a nitrocellulose membrane, another 2x Whatman paper, and another 2x sponges were placed in between plastic cassettes and inserted into the transfer tank. The nitrocellulose was placed adjacent to the anode, and the gel the cathode.

Proteins were transferred at 4°C for 1.5 hours at 150V in transfer buffer (Tris 0.5 M, glycine 0.4M, 10% methanol, double-distilled water). Protein transfer was confirmed by the presence of the coloured markers of the protein ladder run on the SDS-PAGE gel onto the nitrocellulose membrane.

2.7.8 Immunolabelling of transferred proteins

The nitrocellulose membranes harbouring transferred proteins were incubated with TBS-Tween (BSA (2%) (0.15M NaCl, 10 mM Tris pH 7.5 and 0.005% v/v Tween, 2% BSA) for 1 hour at room temperature. Membranes were then incubated with the indicated primary antibody diluted to an optimised concentration (Table 2.22) in TBS-Tween 2% BSA overnight at 4°C on the rollers set to 22 rpm. The nitrocellulose membranes were sequentially incubated for three x 5-minute TBS-Tween

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washes before the nitrocellulose was incubated with the indicated secondary antibody (1:10,000) (Table 2.23) conjugated to a fluorophore (Alexa Fluor-680 or 800 Molecular probes from Licor) for 1 hour. Membranes were subsequently washed for three x 5-minute in TBS-Tween before being imaged with an Odyssey infrared imaging scanner (Licor) at wavelengths of either 700nm or 800nm, and the data processed using the Image Studio software.

2.7.9 Detection of Biotin on proteins transferred to nitrocellulose

For the detection of biotin after blocking the membrane in 2% BSA, the membrane was incubated with IRDye 800 CW streptavidin for 1 hour in the dark before imaging on the Licor and preceding to stain with primary and secondary antibodies.

Table 2.22: Antibody table used for Western blotting

Antibody	MW size of predicted immunoreactivity Da	Species	Supplier	Antibody dilution	Incubation conditions
Control antibodies					
GAPDH	37	Mouse (monoclonal)	Abcam (ab8245)	1:1000	RT 1 hour
CSPα and complex interacting partners					
CSP α	35	Rabbit	SYSY (154 003)	1:1000	4°C ON
HSC70	70	Mouse	Dr A Morgan	1:1000	4°C ON
SGT	36	Rabbit	Dr G Meyer	1:1000	4°C ON
Proteins known to be CSPα clients					
SNAP-25	25	Rabbit polyclonal IgG	SYSY (111 103)	1:1000	4°C ON
Dynamin 1	97	Mouse (IgG1)	BD Biosciences (610245)	1:1000	4°C ON
Proteins involved in vesicle endo/exocytosis					
VAMP-2	18	Mouse (69.1) C110.1	SYSY (104 211)	1:1000 weak signal	4°C ON
Syntaxin 1a/1b	33	Mouse (10H5)	Autogen Bioclear	1:1000	4°C ON
Synaptotagmin	64	Mouse (monoclonal)	SYSY (105.011)	1:1000	4°C ON
Synapsin	77	Rabbit IgG (D12G5)	Cell signalling (#5297)	1:1000	4°C ON
Markers of dysfunctional proteostasis					
LAMP-1	120	Mouse	Santa Cruz Biotechnology (sc-20011)	1:1000	4°C ON
LC-3	17	Rabbit	Santa Cruz biotech (sc-28266)	1:1000	4°C ON
Ubiquitin P4D1	-	Mouse A2813 IgG	Santa Cruz biotech (sc-8017)	1,1000 (weak signal) 1:200	4°C ON

RAB 7	23	Rabbit	Cell signalling (#2094)	1:1000	4°C ON
Subcellular marker proteins					
α-tubulin	50	Mouse (B512)	Sigma (T6074)	1:1000	4°C ON
Actin (AC40)	42	Mouse (Monoclonal)	Sigma (catalogue no: A4700)	1:1000	4°C ON
PSD95	95	Rabbit	Cell signalling (#3450)	1:1000	4°C ON
Synaptophysin	38	Rabbit (IgG) (D8F6H)	Cell signalling (#36406)	1:1000	4°C ON
E3 ubiquitin ligases					
TRIM9	70, 79	Rabbit	Cell signalling (#47990)	1:1000	4°C ON
FBX07	65-72	Rabbit (polyclonal) IgG	Proteintech (10696-1-AP)	1:1000	4°C ON
Parkin	50	Mouse	Cell signalling (#4211)	1:1000	4°C ON
Tags					
Myc	-	Mouse	Santa Cruz Biotechnology	1:1000 (1:1000 if)	4°C ON/30min RT IF
HA	-	Rabbit	Abcam (12CA5)	1:1000	4°C ON
GFP	27	Mouse	Santa Cruz Biotechnology	1:1000	4°C ON
Streptavidin IRdye 800	-	-	Licor		1hour RT
FLAG (M2)	-	Mouse	Sigma	1:1000	4°C ON
Neurotrophin receptors and neurotrophin signalling proteins					
Trk B	142 kDa	Rabbit	Millipore (07-225)	1:1000	4°C ON
Total TRK	~82 and 142 kDa	Rabbit	Santa cruz (C14 pan trk)	1:500	4°C ON
EGF receptor (D38B1)	175 kDa	Rabbit	Cell signalling (#4267)	1:1000	4°C ON
Total ERK	44 kDa	Rabbit	Cell signalling (#4695)	1:1000	4°C ON

P-ERK	44 kDa	Mouse	Cell signalling (#5726)	1:1000	4°C ON
Proteins identified in the proteomics of CSPα-deficient PC12 cells					
DJ-1	22 kDa	Rabbit	Cell signalling (2134)	1:1000	4°C ON
HSP90	90 kDa	Rabbit	Stressgen (spa-836)	1:1000	4°C ON
HSP40	40 kDa	Rabbit	Stressgen (spa400)	1:1000	4°C ON
EEF1A2	50 kDa	Mouse	Ptglab (4F3F4)	1:1000	4°C ON
SFRS3	19 kDa	Rabbit	Ptglab (10916-1-AP)	1:1000	4°C ON

Table 2.23: Secondary antibodies and dyes used for Western blotting

Secondary antibody	Supplier	Species	Dilution	Incubation conditions
Goat anti-mouse 680 (925-68070)	LI-COR	Goat (polyclonal)	1:10,000	1 hour, in the dark at room temperature
Goat anti-rabbit 680 (925-68071)	LI-COR	Goat (polyclonal)	1:10,000	1 hour, in the dark at room temperature
Goat anti-mouse 800 (926-32210)	LI-COR	Goat (polyclonal)	1:10,000	1 hour, in the dark at room temperature
Goat anti-rabbit 800 (925-32211)	LI-COR	Goat (polyclonal)	1:10,000	1 hour, in the dark at room temperature
IRDye® 800CW Streptavidin	Licor	N/A	1:1,000	1 hour, in the dark at room temperature

2.7.10 Analysis of immunoblotting of proteins

Statistical analysis was carried out using GraphPad Prism 9. The immunoreactivity of Immunoblotted proteins of interest and associated housekeeping proteins (Actin, Tubulin or GAPDH) as indicated, were measured in Image Studio Lite Version 5.2. These values were imported to GraphPad Prism 9, with each datapoint corresponding to a single measurement and then normalised to the housekeeping protein.

2.7.11 Streptavidin pull-down and Myc-Immunoprecipitation

HEK293FT or PC12 cells transfected with the biotin ligase as described in sections 2.5.6 and 2.5.5 were investigated. Biotin (50 μ m) was added to the transfected cells expressing the indicated BioID variant for 24 hours before being washed twice in ice-cold PBS. After washing the biotin-treated cells were lysed in 500 μ l buffer (Tris pH 7.5, 50 mM, NaCl 140 mM, 2 mM EDTA, 1% NP-40,10% glycerol) and used in the pull-down experiments as described below

2.7.12 HEK293FT and PC12 streptavidin pull-down with Myc BioID constructs

Pierce Streptavidin magnetic beads (Thermo Scientific) in a slurry of 75 μ l were added to a clean 1.5 ml Eppendorf and washed twice with ice-cold lysis buffer. The beads were collected against the side of the Eppendorf with the magnet, and the wash lysis buffer was removed. The 500 μ l cell lysate was homogenised and 10 % of this total lysate fraction was retained. The remaining fraction was centrifuged at 13,000 xg for 5 minutes, and a further 10 % fraction of supernatant was retained. The pellet fraction from this centrifugation was resuspended in lysis buffer and retained. The remaining lysate supernatant was added to the washed beads and incubated overnight at 4 C with head over end rotation. The beads were collected against the side of the Eppendorf with a magnet, and the unbound flow-through was removed and retained. The beads were washed twice with ice-cold 500 μ l lysis buffer, and these washes were retained. Finally, the biotinylated proteins bound to the beads were eluted in 50 μ l sample buffer (Section 2.7.4) after boiling at 95 C for 5 minutes. Samples were volume normalised, boiled, then run on gels for Coomassie staining (Section 2.7.6) or Western blot (Section 2.7.8)

2.7.13 PC12 Myc Immunoprecipitation with Myc BioID constructs

A slurry of 30 μ l Pierce™ Anti-c-Myc magnetic beads (Thermo Scientific) were added to a clean 1.5 ml Eppendorf and washed twice with ice-cold lysis buffer. The beads were collected against the side of the Eppendorf with the magnet, and the buffer was removed. Cells transfected with the Myc BioID constructs (Section 2.4) were lysed (Section 2.7.1) and homogenised before 10 % of this total

lysate fraction was retained. The remaining fraction was centrifuged at 13,000 xg for 5 minutes and a 10 % fraction of supernatant was retained. The pellet was resuspended and retained to probe for detergent-insoluble material. The remaining supernatant was added to the 30 µl of prewashed Pierce™ Anti-c-Myc Magnetic Beads and incubated overnight at 4 °C with head over end rotation. The beads were washed twice in ice-cold 500 µl lysis buffer (washes retained). The bound proteins were eluted from the beads in 100 µl of 0.1 M glycine, pH 2, with rotation for 10 minutes. The beads were collected magnetically, and the eluate neutralised with 15 µl of Tris-base. Samples were boiled, then run on gels for Western blot (Section 2.7.7) orientation as described in (Section 2.10.1).

2.8 Cell maintenance and preparation for Mass spectroscopy

The parental and CSP α -deficient PC12 cells, exon_3 and exon_5 (CD3 and CD5) were maintained in four independent cell culture flasks. Each was plated in 10 cm dishes, such that they were at 80-90% confluent after 3 days. Cells were plated in PC12 growth media (DMEM 10% Horse serum, 5% FBS) for 48 hours, 18 hours before each culture was subjected to protein extraction, the PC12 growth media was removed and replaced with 2% HS DMEM.

At the point of protein extraction, the cells were imaged on the Invitrogen™ EVOS™ XL Core Imaging System to document cell density.

2.8.1 Protein extraction from cells to generate samples for Mass spectroscopy.

Samples for Mass spectroscopy were generated as described in figure 2.13. Each cell line (Parental, CD3, CD5) was sequentially extracted, and this pattern was repeated for each paired group of the quadruplicate cultures.

The cell culture media was removed from the cells and spun at 200 xg for 5 mins; this pellet, representing floating cells, was retained and the supernatant discarded. The adherent cells were covered in 1ml ice-cold Dulbecco's Phosphate Buffered Saline (DPBS) and scraped off the culture dish. Each dish was washed with a further 1 ml of DPBS to harvest the remaining cells. This combined volume from individual cultures was spun at 200 xg at 4 °C for 5 minutes and generated a combined floating and adhering cell pellet. The supernatant was removed, and the pellet was resuspended in fresh 1 ml DPBS. The pellet was spun at 2500 xg for 5 minutes before three further washes with 1 ml DPBS. The washed pellets were snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80 °C overnight (Figure 2.11).

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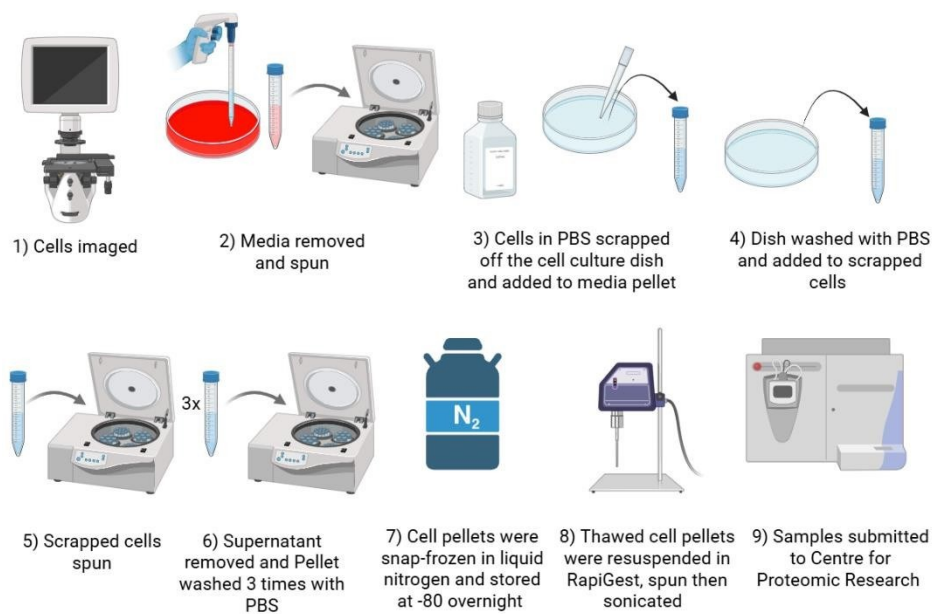


Figure 2.11: Schematic depicting the extraction and preparation of cells for label-free mass spectroscopy

2.8.2 Preparation of protein sample for mass spectroscopy

The 12-cell pellets from parallel culture types were thawed on ice and resuspended in 200 μ l RapiGest (0.1% RapiGest (sodium 3-[(2-methyl-2-undecyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)methoxy]-1propane sulfonate in 50 mM Ammonium Bicarbonate, pH 8.5). Each sample was sonicated (3 x 5 sec pulse (20 kHz) broken by 10 sec rest between each pulse). The sonicated samples were spun at 15,000 x g for 20 mins at 4 °C.

The supernatant fractions that were submitted for mass spectroscopy and corresponding pellet fractions were separated by SDS-PAGE and visualised with Coomassie to verify equivalent protein solubilisation (Figure 2.12). This revealed that whilst there was some protein present in the pelleted fraction, the majority of the cellular protein was extracted. This suggests that the samples sent for mass spectroscopy were representative of total cellular protein. The analysis by SDS-PAGE also indicated that there were some differences in the solubilisation between samples, particularly for low molecular weight proteins (<11 kDa) (Figure 2.12).

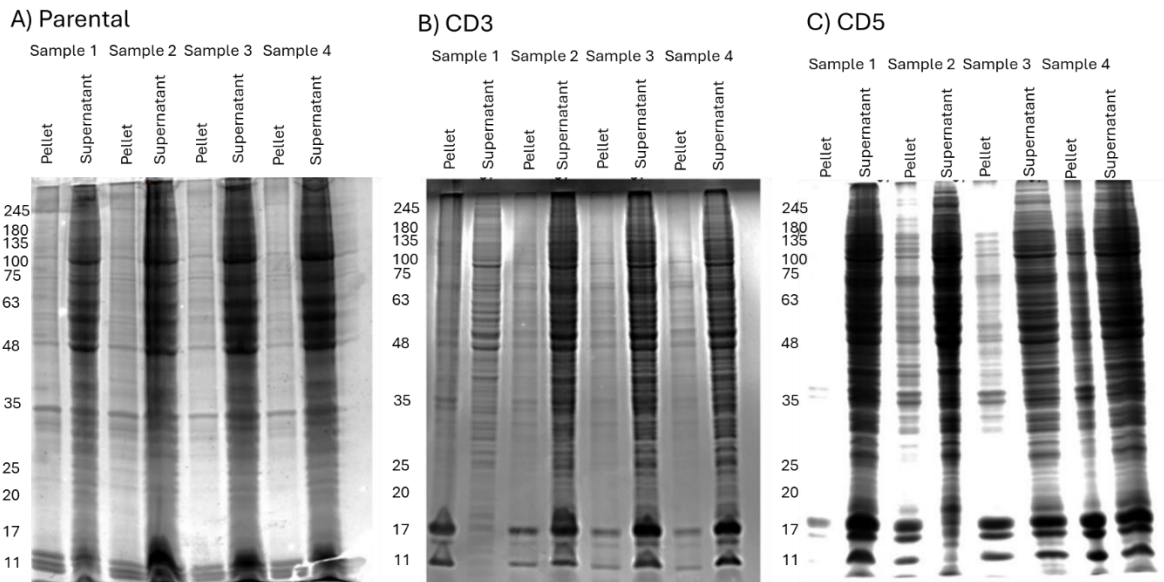


Figure 2.12: The Soluble fraction from the cell lysate submitted for mass spectroscopy was a good representation of total protein

Cell lysis supernatants and pellet fractions were run on an SDS-PAGE gel, then stained with Coomassie. A) Pellet and supernatant fractions for the four parental cultures lysed for mass spectroscopy. B) Pellet and supernatant fractions for the four CD3 cultures C) Pellet and supernatant fractions for the four CD5 cultures.

The DC Bio-Rad protein assay was used to estimate the protein concentration of each of the samples. These samples were diluted in RapiGest to give 1.5 microgram/microlitre. 150 micrograms of sample, representing 100 microliters of each sample, was submitted to Professor Paul Skipp of the Centre for Proteomic Research at the University of Southampton

2.8.3 In solution digestion sample preparation for Mass spectroscopy

DTT was added to the 12 protein samples to a final concentration of 5 mM. The samples were heated at 60 C for 30 minutes and allowed to cool to room temperature. °

Iodoacetamide (15 mM) was added to these samples, which were placed in the dark for 30 mins.

Digestion was performed using TPCK-modified trypsin (Sigma-Aldrich) in an enzyme: substrate ratio (W/W) of 1:25 at 37°C overnight. After this incubation, the samples were lyophilised.

2.8.4 Separation of samples for mass spectroscopy

Peptide extracts (1 µg on column) were separated on an Ultimate 3000 RSLC nano system (Thermo Scientific) using a PepMap C18 EASY-Spray LC column, 2 µm particle size, 75 µm x 75 cm column (Thermo Scientific) over a 140 min (single run) linear gradient of 3–25% buffer B (0.1%

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formic acid in acetonitrile (v/v) in buffer A (0.1% formic acid in water (v/v)) at a flow rate of 300 nL/min

2.8.5 Mass spectroscopy analysis of parental and CSP α -deficient cell lines

Peptides were introduced using an EASY-Spray source at 2000 V to a Fusion Tribrid Orbitrap mass spectrometer (Thermo Scientific). The ion transfer tube temperature was set to 275 °C.

Full MS spectra were recorded from 300 to 1500 m/z in the Orbitrap at 120,000 resolutions. This was performed using TopSpeed mode at a cycle time of 3 s. Peptide ions were isolated using an isolation width of 1.6 amu and trapped at a maximal injection time of 120 ms with an AGC target of 300,000. Higher-energy collisional dissociation (HCD) fragmentation was induced at an energy setting of 28 for peptides with a charge state of 2–4. Fragments were analysed in the Orbitrap at 30,000 resolutions.

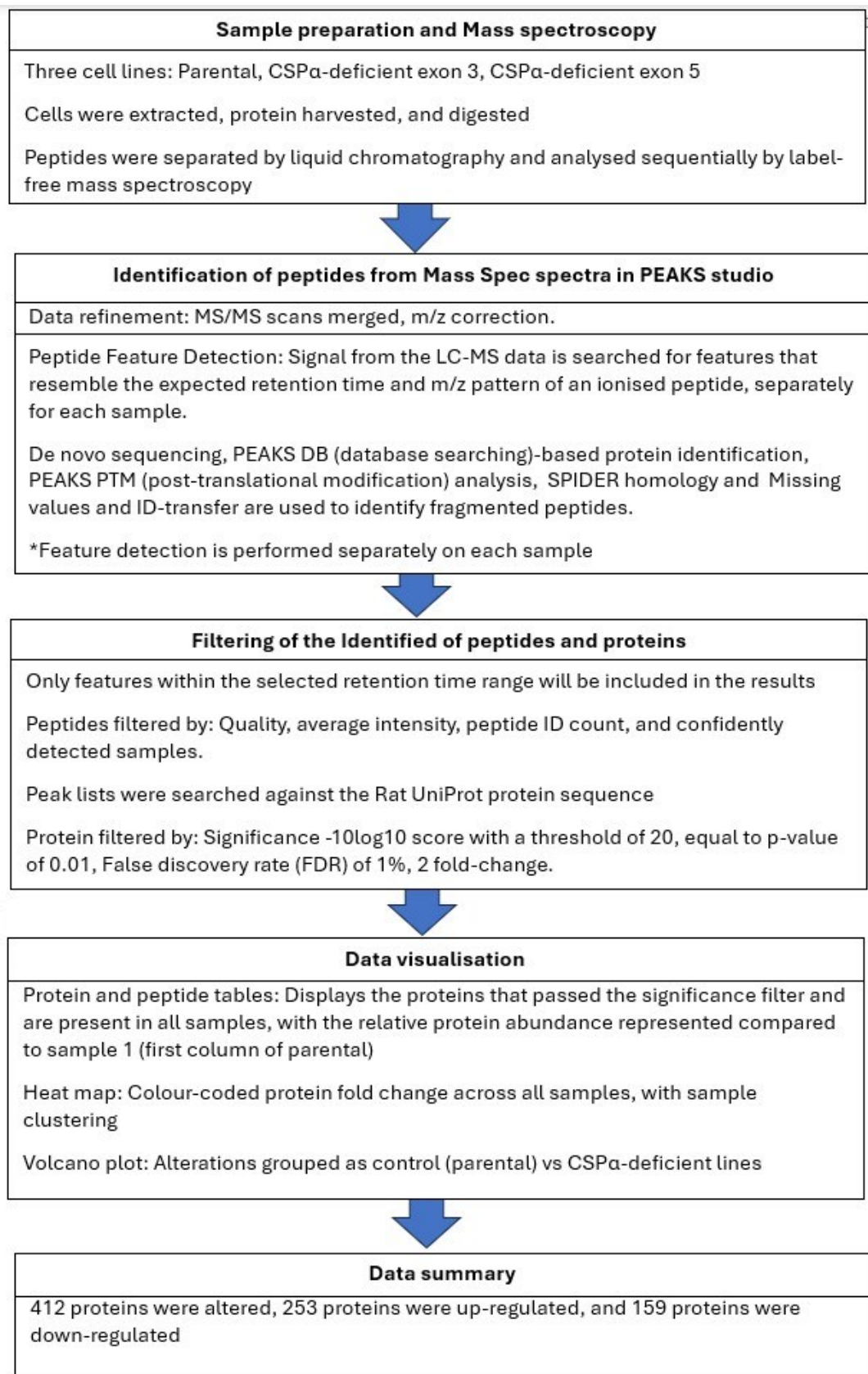


Figure 2.13: Sequential steps in the process by which data from mass-spectroscopy spectra features is used to identify peptides and, in turn protein alterations between control and CSPα-deficient lines (CD3 and CD5).

2.8.6 Proteomic Data Analysis

Raw spectrum files were analysed using Peaks Studio 10.0 and the data processed to generate reduced charge state and deisotoped precursor and associated product ion peak lists, which were searched against the UniProt database (20,350 entries, 2020-04-07). Parent mass error tolerance was set a 10ppm and fragment mass error tolerance at 0.6Da. Variable modifications were set for N-terminal acetylation (42.01 Da), methionine oxidation (15.99 Da), and carboxyamidomethylation (57.02 Da) of cysteine. A maximum of three variable modifications per peptide was set. The false discovery rate (FDR) was estimated with decoy fusion database searches and were filtered to 1% FDR.

Protein relative quantification in PEAKS was carried out by Professor Paul Skipp

2.8.6.1 PEAK studio label-free quantification parameters and statistics

The PEAKS peptide score ($-10\lg P$) is calculated for every peptide precursor spectrum match reported by PEAKS DB, PEAKS PTM, and SPIDER. The score is derived from the p-value that indicates the statistical significance of the spectrum match. When a peptide feature is detected in multiple spectra, the peptide score is the maximum (J. Zhang et al., 2012). To determine the significance of the peptides detected the PEAKSQ method was used, whereby the statistical significance of each peak in the data set is determined, to distinguish true peaks from noise. The significance score is calculated as $-10\log_{10}$ of the significance testing p-value. With a significance score threshold of 20, equal to a significance testing p value of 0.01.

Table 2.24: Parameters used in PEAKS for quantification of proteins identified in label free mass spectrometry. A) The parameters used for the filtering of peptides identified in spectra. B) Lists the total number of features present in all spectra, the number of features which were identified, and the number of peptides identified. C) Lists the search parameters that were used for the identification of peptides from spectra generated by label-free mass spectroscopy.

A) Result filtration parameters.		Charge upper bound	≤ 10
Retention time lower bound	≥ 0	Confident number of samples per group	≥ 1
Retention time upper bound	≤ 250		
Quality	≥ 0	Peptide ID Count	≥ 1
Avg. Area	$\geq 0E0$	Protein significance	≥ 20
Charge lower bound	≥ 1	Protein fold change	≥ 2

B) Statistics of the filtered result.

Features	96929
Features with ID	79352
Feature vectors	8365
Feature vectors with ID	8365
Protein groups	440
Significance method	PEAKSQ
Used Peptides	≥1
Normalization	Use TIC

C) Search Parameters

Quantification type: Label-free quantification	Samples: 12 samples in 3 groups Parent:
LFQ method: ID-directed LFQ	Sample 1, Sample 2, Sample 3, Sample 4.
Coefficient of Variation filter: No	CSP α deficient 3:
Do outlier removal: No	Sample 5, Sample 6, Sample 7, Sample 8.
Mass Error Tolerance: 20.0 ppm	CSP α deficient 5:
Retention Time Shift Tolerance: Auto detect	Sample 9, Sample 10, Sample 11, Sample
Dependent on PID:	12.
31,34,37,39,41,43,45,47,49,51,53,55	Reference Sample: Sample 1 (auto detected)
FDR Threshold: 1%	Training Samples: Sample 9, Sample 11 (auto detected)

2.8.7 Differential Protein Expression

Label-free quantification using the Peaks Q module of Peaks Studio [1 & 2] yielding matrices of protein identifications as quantified by their normalised top 3 peptide intensities. Peaks corresponding to precursor ions were extracted with a minimum intensity threshold and retention times were aligned across all runs to correct for chromatographic drift. Label-free quantification was achieved by integrating the area under the curve of extracted ion chromatograms for each peptide feature. Peptide peak intensities were normalised against the total ion current. Protein-level quantitation was obtained by summing or averaging the intensities of unique peptides per protein group, with missing values imputed according to the software's default settings.

2.8.7.1 Determining vector ratio distribution to set fold change of relative abundance

Plots of the distribution (Figure 2.14) of the features present in all spectrums by A) Quality of the features detected and by the B) Average area. The plots described in Figure 2.14 are used to determine how quantifiable a peptide is. This determines the threshold for the values for quality and intensity filters to obtain reliable peptide identification.

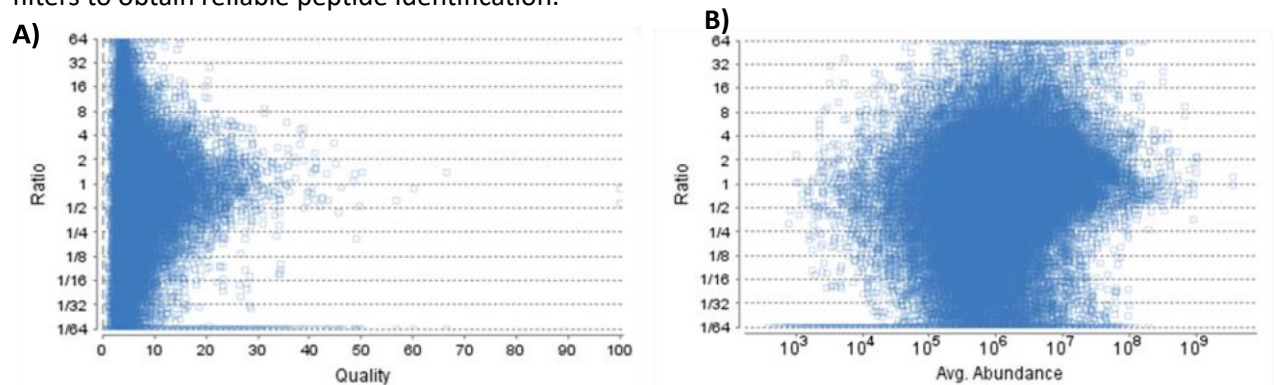


Figure 2.14. The distribution of feature vector ratio: (A) By quality; (B) By abundance, used to determine the threshold of the fold change.

2.8.7.2 Retention time m/z shift distribution

Plots of the A) retention time shift distribution to the reference sample (Figure 2.15) (Parental sample 1) B) The distribution of m/z of the reference sample. These figures are used to determine the retention time range that will be considered for a peptide to be included in the results. The red bars represent the range between all runs, which is then aligned and depicted as the blue bars, representing that most of the recordings are within 4 minutes, which was set as the Retention time upper bound.

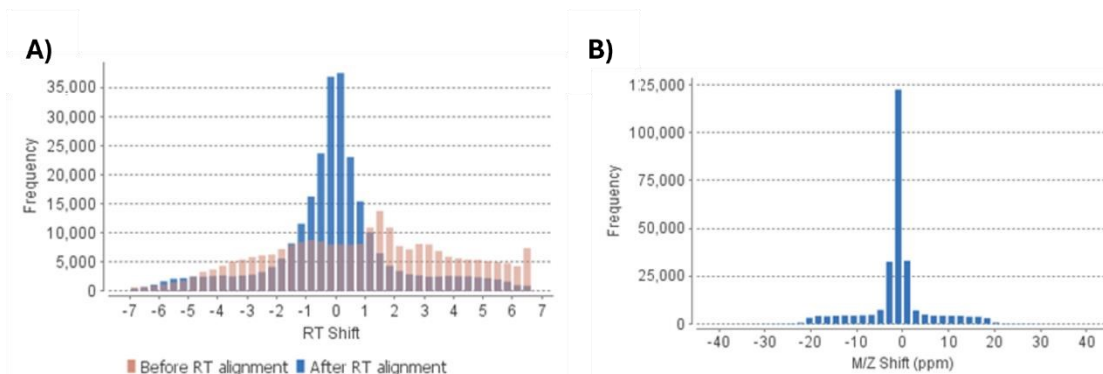


Figure 2.15. (A) RT shift distribution; (B) M/Z shift distribution.

2.8.8 Missing values and ID-transfer

Peptides of a particular protein may not be detected in all spectra for several reasons. Including the fact that Peptide fragmentation is not fully reproducible between runs, a fragmented spectrum may contain multiple signals from overlapping peptides, or spectral libraries may not contain information for all peptides, so some may be left unidentified. As such, to be able to interpret between runs, data ID transfer is required to reduce the number of missing peptides.

ID-transfer is a method where identification from spectra is transferred to another based on retention time and mass. Figure 2.16 depicts the percentage of unidentified peptides present in the dataset per sample before and after ID-transfer.

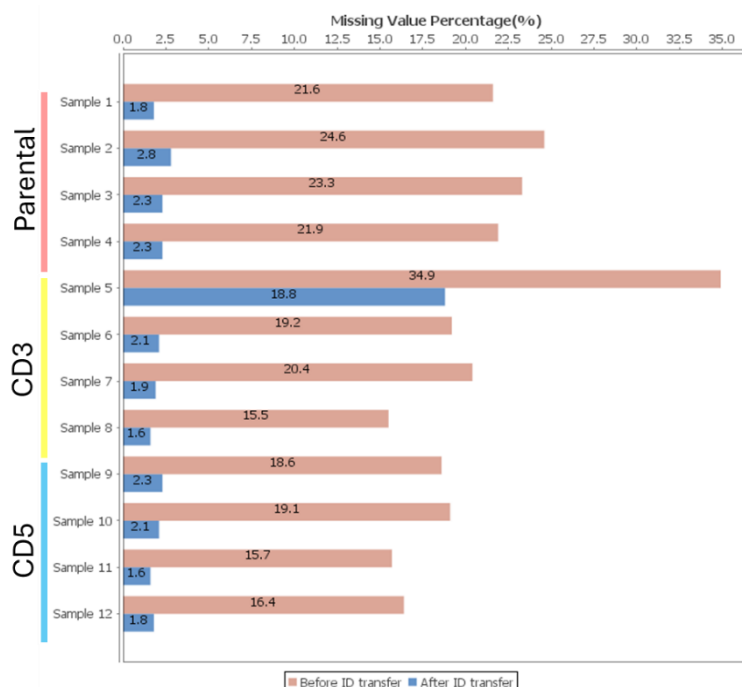


Figure 2.16: Percentage of missing values in each sample with or without ID transfer.

Whilst the percentage of missing values in each sample is largely consistent both before and after ID transfer, sample 5 (CD3) is an outlier in both before and after ID transfer. Whilst this was noted, this sample was not excluded from the analysis taken forward.

2.8.9 Data visualisation and summary

Data was summarised at the peptide and the protein level (Figure 2.17). For each protein identified, its Protein group, ID, Uniprot Accession, and a description were displayed (Figure 2.17, columns 1-3 and 12). The identified proteins were ordered based on the sum of the significance of distinguished peptide peaks identified above the spectral noise (Figure 2.17, A, column 4). Characterisation of the identified protein is summarised. The percentage of the total protein covered by identified peptides is listed, along with the number of peptides from the identified protein, and how many of these peptides are unique to the protein (Figure 2.17, A columns 5,6 and 7). The presence of post-translational modifications and the protein's average mass is listed (Figure 2.17, A, columns 8 and 9). The fold change between the control (parental) and each of the CD3 and CD5 samples: 1-12, and groups: Parental, CD3, CD5, were then summarised as colour-coded profiles. (Figure 2.17, A columns 10 and 11). At the peptide level, information about which peptides were used in abundance quantification was presented. (Figure 2.17, B) The identified peptides were mapped to the amino acid sequence of the corresponding protein, and the peptides were listed in a table below. The top three ranked peptides were involved in quantification, marked with a Y in (Figure 2.17, B) column 2, determined by the quality (Figure 2.17, B column 4) and the significance values (Figure 2.17, B column 5)

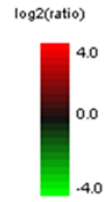
The detection parameters are listed in Figure 2.17, B, columns 6 and 7, with the average-ppm displaying the average mass error in ppm, whilst the average-area is the average area under the curve for each peptide.

The quantified change in abundance is displayed in Figure 2.17, B columns 8-12, with the sample and group profiles displaying relative peptide abundance to the average log₂ depicted as a heatmap, and the group average abundance value is listed in the next column. The max ratio shows the maximum fold change between the control and the CSP α -deficient lines.

Vector shows the number of quantifiable features of a selected peptide (Figure 2.17, B, column 14) whilst the start and end are the first and last residue the peptide covers in the protein (Figure 2.17, B, columns 15-16), and lastly, the PTM column highlights the type and number of modifications present in the peptide (Figure 2.17, B, column 15).

A)

Protein Group	Protein ID	Accession	Significance	Coverage (%)	#Peptides	#Unique	PTM	Avg. Mass	Sample Profile	Group Profile	Description
50	24	P63039 CH60_RAT	200.00	12	8	8	Y	60956			60 kDa heat shock protein, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hspd1 PE=1 SV=1



B)

P63039|CH60_RAT

| Protein Coverage | Supporting Peptides |

Protein Coverage:

```

1 MLRLPTVLRQ MRPVSRALAP HLTRAYAKDV KFGADARALM LQGVLLADA VAVTMGPKGR TVIIEQSWGS PKVTKDGVTV
81 AKSIDLKDKY KNIGAKLVQD VANNTNEEAG DGTTTATVLA RSIAGEGFEK ISRGANPVEI RRGVMLAVDA VIAELKKQSK
161 PVTTPPEEIAQ VATISANGDK DIGNIISDAM KKVGRKGVIT VKDGRKLNDE LEIIEGKMF RGYISPYFIN TSKGQKCEFQ
241 DAYVLLSEKK ISSVQSIKVA LEIANHRKP LVIIAEDVDG EALSTLVLNR LKVGLQVVAV KAPFGDNRK NQLKDMAIAT
321 GGAVFGEGL NLNLEDVQAH DLGKVGIVIV TKDDAMLLKG KGDKAHIEKR IQEITEQLDI TTSEYEKEL NERLAKLSDG
401 VAVLKVGGS DVEVNEKDR VTDALNATRA AVEEGIVLGG GCALLRCIPA LDSLKPANED QKIGIEIKR ALKIPAMTIA
481 KNAGVEGSLI VEKILQSSSE VGYDAMLGDF VNMVEKGIID PTKVVRTALL DAAGVASLLT TAEAVVTEIP KEEKDPGMGA
561 MGGMGGMGG GMF
  
```

Supporting Peptides:

Peptide	Used	Candidates	Quality	Significance	Avg. ppm	Avg. Area	Sample Profile	Group Profile	Parent	Set3	Set5	Max Ratio	#Vector	Start	End	PTM
K.LSDGVAVLK.V	Y	Y	5.74	8.49	1.0	8.3766E7			2.5495E7	1.0842E8	1.1738E8	4.60	1	397	405	
K.VGGTSDVEVNEK.K	Y	Y	4.73	5.28	0.8	7.2153E7			2.6145E7	9.9054E7	1.1602E8	4.44	1	406	417	
R.VTDALNATRA	Y	Y	4.50	4.25	2.5	7.0857E7			2.7692E7	7.0087E7	1.1479E8	4.15	1	421	429	
K.GANPVEIR.R	N	Y	5.21	5.25	0.6	5.3362E7			2.1224E7	7.155E7	8.5198E7	4.01	1	134	141	
K.TLNDELEIEGK.F	N	Y	4.70	2.68	1.8	4.9827E7			2.6498E7	6.8249E7	5.4733E7	2.58	1	206	218	
K.TLNDELEIEGM(+15.99).K.F	N	Y	3.76	3.78	1.5	1.0746E7			3.4125E6	1.1244E7	1.758E7	5.15	1	206	218	Oxidation (M)
R.RGVMLAVDAVIAELKK.Q	N	Y	4.74	0.04	3.0	1.2218E6			1.2108E6	1.232E6	1.2227E6	1.02	1	142	157	
R.GVM(+15.99)LAVDVAVIAELKK.Q	N	Y	3.91	1.04	0.7	4.9308E5			4.2613E5	4.8127E5	6.7837E5	1.59	1	143	157	Oxidation (M)
R.RGVMLAVDAVIAELK.K	N	Y	5.32	6.02	0.9	2.1775E5			9.8504E4	3.5972E5	1.9502E5	3.65	1	142	156	

total 9 peptides

Figure 2.17: Summary information of an identified protein altered from label-free mass spectrometry. A) Identified Protein and corresponding B) Peptide summary table, with protein identification and significance, and the relative abundance.

2.9 GO term and Pathway analysis of proteomic data

2.9.1 PANTHER Overrepresentation Test for enrichment of GO biological processes

The list of protein codes altered in the proteomics was covered to gene codes using the SYNGO ID mapping tool supported by the web service MyGene (MyGene.info | Gene Annotation as a Service, Dec 2024). The Panther knowledge base was used to carry out a PANTHER Overrepresentation Test for enrichment of GO biological processes using Fisher's Exact (Figure 2.18). Ranking GO terms by fold enrichment with corresponding raw P value and False Discovery Rate results for FDR $P < 0.05$ compared to a reference list of all genes present in the chosen organism (*Rattus norvegicus*). The fold enrichment is calculated by dividing the percentage of genes in the input list that are annotated with a specific GO term by the percentage of genes in the reference list annotated with the same GO term. A fold enrichment greater than 1 suggests overrepresentation, and enrichment over 100 indicates a significant overrepresentation,

Chapter 3

whilst less than 1 indicates underrepresentation. The top 20 enriched GO terms for the up- and down-regulated terms are included in Chapter 5.

The screenshot shows the PANTHER Classification System interface. At the top, there is a search bar with a 'Go' button and a navigation menu with links like Home, About, Data Version, Tools, API/Services, Publications, Workspace, Downloads, FAQ/Help/Tutorial, Login, Register, and Contact us. Below the navigation menu, it states 'Current Release: PANTHER 19.0 | 15,683 family phylogenetic trees | 144 species | News Whole genome function views'. The main content area is titled 'Gene List Analysis' and contains a 'Help Tips' sidebar and a main form. The form has three steps: 1. Enter IDs and or select file for batch upload. Else enter ids or select file or list from workspace for comparing to a reference list. 2. Select organism. 3. Select Analysis. The 'GO biological process complete' option is selected for the analysis type. A 'submit' button is at the bottom.

Help Tips
Steps:
1. Select list and list type to analyze
2. Select Organism
3. Select operation
[Using enhancer data](#)

1. Enter ids and or select file for batch upload. Else enter ids or select file or list from workspace for comparing to a reference list.
Enter IDs: Supported IDs separate IDs by a space or comma
Upload IDs: No file selected.
Please [login](#) to be able to select lists from your workspace.
Select List Type:
 ID List
 Previously exported text search results
 Workspace list
 PANTHER Generic Mapping
 ID's from Reference Proteome Genome
Organism for id list:
 VCF File Flanking region: 20 Kb Search Enhancer Data

2. Select organism.

Homo sapiens
Mus musculus
Rattus norvegicus
Gallus gallus
Danio rerio

3. Select Analysis.
 Functional classification viewed in gene list
 Functional classification viewed in graphic charts Bar chart Pie chart
 Statistical overrepresentation test
 ?
 Statistical enrichment test

Figure 2.18: PANTHER upload page for PANTHER overrepresentation Test for enrichment of GO terms for biological processes using Fisher's exact test.

PANTHER Overrepresentation Test for enrichment of GO biological processes using Fisher's Exact. Displaying the top 20 enriched GO terms for the up- and down-regulated terms ranked by fold enrichment with corresponding raw P value and False Discovery Rate results for FDR $P < 0.05$.

2.9.2 STRING database used to annotate the pathways altered in CSP α knockdown PC12 cells as determined by proteomic mass spectroscopy.

String (version 12.0) (<https://string-db.org/>) (Accessed December 2024), which annotates protein-protein interactions indicating the strength or specificity of an interaction, was used to identify protein interaction networks in the proteins identified as being altered in the PC12 CSP α knockdown cells by Mass spectroscopy (Szkarczyk et al., 2023).

Up and down-regulated proteins (Appendix table C.4) were input into the database with the settings- *Rattus norvegicus*, full STRING network. With edges indicating both the function and the physical protein associations. The minimum required interaction score was set to medium confidence (0.400) or to high set at (0.700), and Markov Cluster Algorithm (MCL) clustering (find natural clusters based on the stochastic flow) was chosen with inflation parameters set to 3.

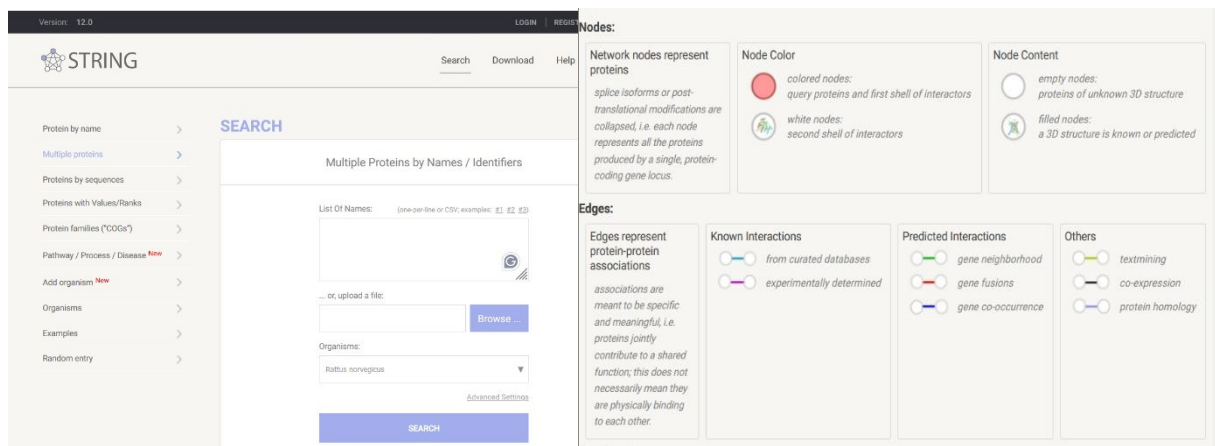


Figure 2.19: STRING load up page (left) for the pathway analysis of proteins altered between parental and CRISPR CSP α knockdown PC12 cells y. Legend STRING network (Right) with definition of network component.

2.9.3 Use of SYNGO to determine changes in synaptic proteins in the proteomic readout of CSP α knock-out PC12 cells

Prior to use of SYNGO protein symbols were converted to gene symbols using the SYNGO ID mapping tool supported by the webservice MyGene (*MyGene.info | Gene Annotation as a Service.*, Dec 2024) SYNGO (<https://www.syngoportal.org/>) (Accessed December 2024, version 1.2) was used to determine changes in synaptic protein expression between the parental and CD lines. SYNGO is an evidence-based, expert-curated resource for synaptic function, localisation and relationships between proteins (Koopmans et al., 2019). Up and down-regulated proteins were input, and either the domain of location or function was selected with enrichment analysis using $-\log_{10}$ Q value to produce a graphical readout and summary of the synaptic nature of the input list.

SYNGO
DEFINING THE SYNAPSE

[home](#) [submit](#) [about](#) [help](#)

Synaptic Gene Ontologies

An evidence-based, expert-curated resource for synapse function and gene enrichment studies

SynGO version 1.2 is now live and includes 30% more synaptic genes and annotations !
[click here for more info](#)

Gene search

Query a single gene and view available SynGO annotations

enter a human gene symbol or identifier here...

Enter the first letters of a gene symbol, or (part of) a gene name, to see matching SynGO annotated genes.
Alternatively, you may copy/paste a human gene ID (ensembl, hgnc, etc.). Examples: [DLG4](#), [syntaxin](#), [HGNC:12643](#), [ENSG00000106089](#).

[show more info](#)

Figure 2.20: SYNGO load-up page used for the identification of the presence of synaptic proteins altered in the mass spectroscopy comparison of parental and CRISPR CSP α knockdown PC12 cells

Chapter 3 A bioinformatics approach to identify candidate E3-ubiquitin ligases for SNAP-25

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 SNAP-25 ubiquitination and turnover

As described in the general introduction, SNAP-25's ubiquitination increases in the face of the proteostasis disruption caused by CSP α -/- (Section 1.8.6). Even with advances in elucidating how ubiquitin-proteasome pathways regulate synaptic protein composition (Ehlers, 2003, Haas and Broadie, 2008, Kawabe and Stegmüller, 2021) there is currently still limited knowledge of presynaptic ubiquitination and turnover; as such, SNAP-25 ubiquitination provides the possibility to identify compartment candidate E3 ligases.

3.1.2 SNAP-25 lysine residues that support ubiquitination

Lysine residue selection is important for generating specific substrate-ubiquitin interactions (Suryadinata et al., 2013). The proximity of the lysine(s) towards the E2 and E3 active sites is critical in the selection and ubiquitination of a specific residue (Sadowski and Sarcevic, 2010). SNAP-25 has 12 available lysine residues, with four ubiquitination positions identified by proteomic analyses from peptides extracted from mouse tissue at positions K40, K69, K72 and K103 (Figure 3.1) (Wagner et al., 2012).



Figure 3.1: **SNAP-25 sequence with likely ubiquitination sites highlighted.** Orange highlighted K are lysines identified to be likely ubiquitination targets. The palmitoylated membrane targeting region is highlighted in bold, and the SNARE motifs required for interaction with Syntaxin (1, N-terminal) and VAMP2 (2, C-terminal) are underlined.

3.2 E3 ligases in neurons

E3 ubiquitin ligases provide specificity to ubiquitination by selectively recognising a substrate (Pickart and Eddins, 2004). E3 ligases are differentially expressed in cells and across subcellular compartments, dependent on the localisation and function of target substrates as well as the scaffolding or selective organisation of a specific E3 ubiquitin ligase (Table 3.1) (Yang et al., 2021).

Table 3.1: Examples of ubiquitination events identified in specific neuronal compartments

Neuronal E3 ubiquitin ligases	Neuronal E3 ligase substrates
Ubiquitination at the presynapse	
Parkin	Glycosylated alpha-synuclein (Shimura et al., 2001) Synphilin-1 (Chung et al., 2001) Synaptotagmin 11 (Wang et al., 2018) Septin-5 (Y. Zhang et al., 2000)
APC	Liprin- α (synaptic growth) (van Roessel et al., 2004)
Highwire/ Rpm-1	MAPKKK, DLK (regulates synaptic growth) (Nakata <i>et al.</i> , 2005)
SCRAPPER	RIM-1 (priming for synaptic vesicle release) (Yao et al., 2007)
Staring	Syntaxin-1a/b (Chin et al., 2002b)
UBE3A	Arc, Tkv and SK2 (Dindot et al., 2008, Greer et al., 2010, (Li et al., 2016, Sun et al., 2015)
Ubiquitination at the post-synapse	
Parkin	DAT (Jiang et al., 2004) GluN1 (Zhu et al 2018) VPS35 (Williams et al., 2018)
Siah1A	GluR5 (Ishikawa et al., 1999)
MDM2	PSD-95 (Colledge <i>et al.</i> , 2003)
Ube3b	BCKDK (Cheon et al., 2019b) Ppp3cc (Ambrozkiwicz et al., 2021)
Ubiquitination in other neuronal compartments	
RPM-1 (axons) GLO-4 (actin dynamics) and DLK-1 (microtubule dynamics) (Grill et al., 2007)	
APP	Cdh1 (nuclear) (restrains axon outgrowth) (Konishi et al., 2004) Cdc20 (cytosolic) (regulates dendrite length) (Kim et al., 2009)

3.2.1 E3 ubiquitin ligase classes

There are five classes of E3 ubiquitin ligases (Figure 3.2), three of which have been extensively studied. The largest group, the Ring-finger type (Really Interesting New Gene (RING)-type) family, has more than 600 members (W. Li et al., 2008). The second most abundant group is HECT (homologous to E6AP C-terminus (HECT)-type E3 ubiquitin), with 28 members (Rotin and Kumar, 2009). Thirdly, the RBR: Ring between ring (RBR) E3 ubiquitin ligases family of 14 members (X. S. Wang et al., 2023). Then, the U-box type E3 ubiquitin ligase family which is structurally related to the RING family of E3 ligases. Finally, the RING Cys-Relay (RCR) family with one member (Yang et al., 2021) (Figure 3.2).

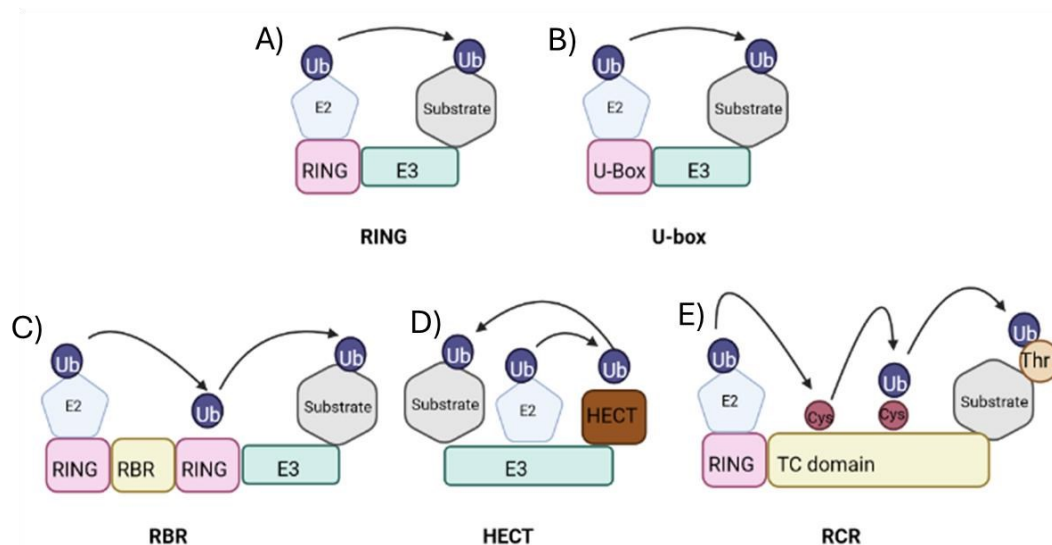


Figure 3.2: E3 ligase classes, structures and archetypical ubiquitination reaction.

A) Ring is representative of the Really Interesting New Gene (RING)-type family, B) U-box type E3 ubiquitin ligase family. C) RBR is representative of the Ring-between-ring E3 ubiquitin ligase family, D) HECT is representative of the homologous to E6AP C-terminus type E3 ubiquitin ligases family, and E) RCR is the RING-Cys-Relay family.

3.2.2 RING family of E3 ligases

The RING E3 ligase family are the major class of E3 ligases; they can provide a docking site for both the substrate protein and the E2-ubiquitin conjugate, with the RING domain facilitating the direct transfer of ubiquitin from the E2 ligase to the substrate protein (Figure 3.2, A) (Nguyen et al., 2017). The RING ligases act by coordinating two zinc²⁺ ions to form a platform in which E3 ubiquitin enzymes can bind (Deshaies and Joazeiro, 2009). The RING family have characteristic zinc chelating cysteine and histidine residues as part of their RING finger domain.

RING E3 ligases have a variety of substrates associated with DNA repair, tumour suppression and endocytosis (Metzger et al., 2014). Due to the variety of Ring type E3 substrates, the mechanisms of

substrate recognition are varied. Substrates can bind directly and indirectly to RING E3 ligases, which in turn can self-ubiquitinate or be ubiquitinated by heterologous RING or HECT-type E3 ligases within the regulation of networks (Plechanovová et al., 2012).

3.2.3 HECT family of E3 ligases

HECT E3 ligases consist of a catalytic HECT domain at their C-terminus, and an E2 binding domain at the N-terminal, joined by a flexible hinge region which facilitates the transfer of ubiquitin from the bound E2 ligase (Figure 3.2, D) (Qian et al., 2020). Specificity of ubiquitin chain linkage is in the catalytic HECT domain. Ubiquitination requires an extra step in which an E3-ubiquitin intermediate is formed before ubiquitin is transferred to the substrate recruited by the HECT E3 ligase (Pickart, 2001). The HECT E3 ligases are divided into three subfamilies: the NEDD4 family, the HERC family and the “Other” HECT family (Table 3.2).

Table 3.2: Subfamily and example members of the HECT E3 ligase family.

Subfamily of HECT E3 ligases	Members	Structure
NEDD4	NEDD4, NEDD4-2, ITCH, WWP1, WWP2, SMURF2, SMURF1, HECW1, HECW2,	Lipid-binding/membrane domain, between two and four WW substrate recognition domains and a C-terminal HECT domain
HERC	HERC1, HERC2, HERC3, HERC4, HERC5, HERC6	Characterised by a regulator of chromatin condensation 1 (RCC)-like domain (RLD).
“other” HECT	E6AP, WUWE1, HACE1, TRIP12, UBR5, UBE3B, UBE3C, HECTD1, HECTD2, HECTD4, HECT3, G2E3, AREL1	Do not have a specific domain at their N terminus

U-box E3 ubiquitin ligases are a family of 21 ligases, named for a conserved U-box domain formed of 70 amino acids located at the C-terminus. The U-box domain interacts with an E2 ligase, allowing subsequent transfer of ubiquitin from the E2 ligase to the substrate (Figure 3.2, B) (Hatakeyama and Nakayama, 2003; Ohi *et al.*, 2003). U-box proteins are structurally related to the RING family, formed of a single polypeptide which makes use of zinc chelation, hydrogen bonds and disulfide bridges to transfer ubiquitin intermediates to the substrate (M.-S. Kim et al., 2021).

3.2.4 RBR family of E3 ligases

The RING-In-Between-RING (RBR) E3 ligases are characterised by a conserved catalytic region formed of a RING1 domain with a central in-between-RINGS (IBR) domain and a RING2 domain. The RING1 is responsible for recruiting the E2 ligase, whilst the RING2 domain contains a catalytic cysteine required to accept a ubiquitin molecule (Spratt et al., 2014). RBR E3 ligases are involved in keeping

proteins in auto-inhibited states via intermolecular interactions (Chaugule *et al.*, 2011; Stieglitz *et al.*, 2012; Duda *et al.*, 2013). RBRs use a RING-HECT hybrid mechanism to carry out ubiquitination. The RING1 domain recruits the E2 ligase conjugated to ubiquitin, whilst a conserved cysteine residue in the RING2 domain accepts ubiquitin, which is transthiolated before it is transferred to the substrate (Figure 3.2, C) (Eisenhaber *et al.*, 2007). Mutation of RING-type E3 ligases is linked to several human diseases, including Parkin, which has been shown to be involved in autosomal recessive juvenile Parkinsonism (Dawson and Dawson, 2010).

3.2.5 RING-Cys-Relay (RCR) family

The RING-Cys-Relay (RCR) family are a newly characterised family formed of one member, the neuron-associated E3 ligase MYCBP2, which is essential for neurodevelopment and regulates axon maintenance. MYCBP2 has both esterification and ubiquitination activity, containing two essential catalytic cysteine residues that relay ubiquitin to its required substrate via thioester intermediates (Figure 3.2, E). MYCBP2 has intrinsic selectivity for threonine over serine; non-lysine ubiquitination is rare, and this is the first case reported to have been identified in humans (Pao *et al.*, 2018, Mabbitt *et al.*, 2020, AlAbdi *et al.*, 2023).

3.2.6 Known ubiquitination of SNAP-25

Whilst ubiquitination of SNAP-25 increases in $CSP\alpha^{-/-}$, currently, no E3 ubiquitin ligase has been found to be responsible for this, and to date, only one E3 ligase TFNAIP1, has been shown to ubiquitinate SNAP-25 in the context of postoperative cognitive dysfunction (W. Wang *et al.*, 2023). Due to the fact that it is known that ubiquitination of SNAP-25 leads to its degradation, SNAP-25 is likely K48-linked polyubiquitinated when it is unchaperoned. Yet it is possible that SNAP-25 could also be mono- or K63-linked ubiquitinated to regulate its trafficking or recycling during the synaptic vesicle cycle (Hicke, 2001, Erpapazoglou, Walker and Haguenaer-Tsapis, 2014).

3.3 Aims

This chapter aims to leverage a bioinformatics approach to identify candidate E3-ligases that might be acting in the poly-ubiquitination of SNAP-25, which leads to its degradation. To this end, I used a combination of literature observations and structural predictions to generate a list of potential candidate E3 ubiquitin ligases. This is done with the aim of informing on the ubiquitination process of SNAP-25 and more broadly in the context of ubiquitination at the presynaptic nerve terminal. To identify E3 ubiquitin ligases that potentially interact with SNAP-25, a literature-based approach looking for experimental evidence and a predictive-based approach based on structural features

were used. For full descriptions of the methods, databases, and filters used for this chapter, see Method Section 2.2.

3.4 Results

A bioinformatics approach was used to identify candidate E3 ligase activities as described and tabulated in Methods Section 2.2. Information on the database versions and the access dates can also be found here.

3.4.1 Literature-based approach to identify E3 ubiquitin ligases that may interact with SNAP-25

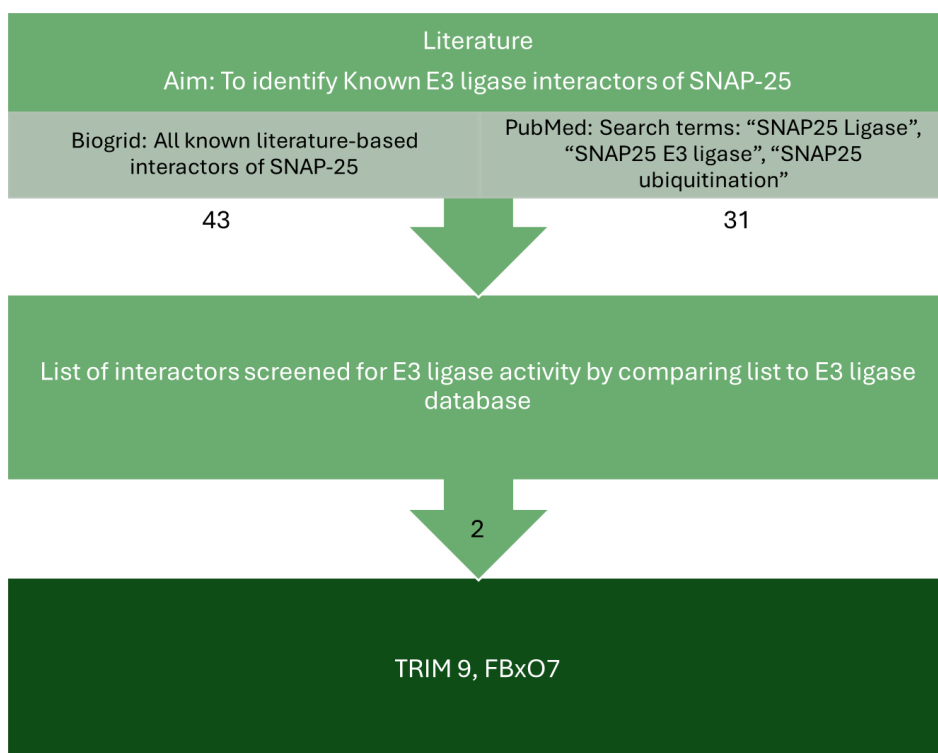


Figure 3.3: Workflow of the literature-based approach to identify E3 ligases that have been shown to interact with SNAP-25. With numbers highlighting the number of interactions returned from each stage of the approach.

The literature-based approach (Figure 3.3) was undertaken to extract existing candidates annotated as binding partners or associated in SNAP-25-containing protein complexes. For this reason, both the literature depository database BioGRID and PubMed were used to facilitate this, utilising the search terms "SNAP-25 ligase", "SNAP-25 E3 ligase" and "SNAP25 ubiquitination".

3.4.1.1 BioGRID search for the identification of SNAP-25 E3 ligase candidates

BioGRID (<https://thebiogrid.org/>) (see method section 2.2.2 for details on the platform) returned 43 SNAP-25 interactions, including known SNAP-25 interacting proteins VAMP-2 and Synaptotagmin-1. Of these interacting proteins, two were identified as having ligase activity (Li et al., 2017).

3.4.1.2 PubMed search for the identification of SNAP-25 E3 ligase candidates

For PubMed, the search term “SNAP25 Ligase” returned 11 papers, “SNAP25 E3 ligase” returned 8 papers and “SNAP25 ubiquitination” returned 31 papers. (See Appendix Table A.1). The final cohort of papers that emerged from these were read to investigate if their content provided evidence to support an interaction between SNAP-25 and proteins with E3 ligase activity.

TRIM9 was identified as a protein that interacted with SNAP-25 with confirmed E3 ubiquitin ligase activity as evidenced by subsequent BioGRID and PubMed searches, whilst FBX07 was identified via BioGRID but not PubMed (Table 3.3), potentially due to the fact that the data supporting an FBX07-SNAP-25 interaction was contained in the articles supplementary.

Table 3.3: The literature approach led to the identification of two proteins known to be binding partners of, or part of a SNAP-25 containing protein complex.

Gene symbol	Protein symbol	Uniprot number	Detection method SNAP-25 interaction	Function of interaction	Source of interaction
FBX07	FBX7	Q9Y311	Biochemical activity arrays	Evidence of SNAP-25 ubiquitination	(Teixeira et al., 2016a) <i>In vitro</i> assays of protein ubiquitination
TRIM9	TRIM9	Q9C026	Affinity Capture-Western interaction screen	Evidence of direct Yeast two-hybrid interaction negatively regulates	(Yankun Li et al., 2001; Menon et al., 2021; Winkle et al., 2014a)
			Proximity-dependent with the mediated exocytosis and	SNARElabelling promiscuous biotin ligase (BirA*) axon branching in the absence of Netrin-1	

3.4.2 Predictive approach

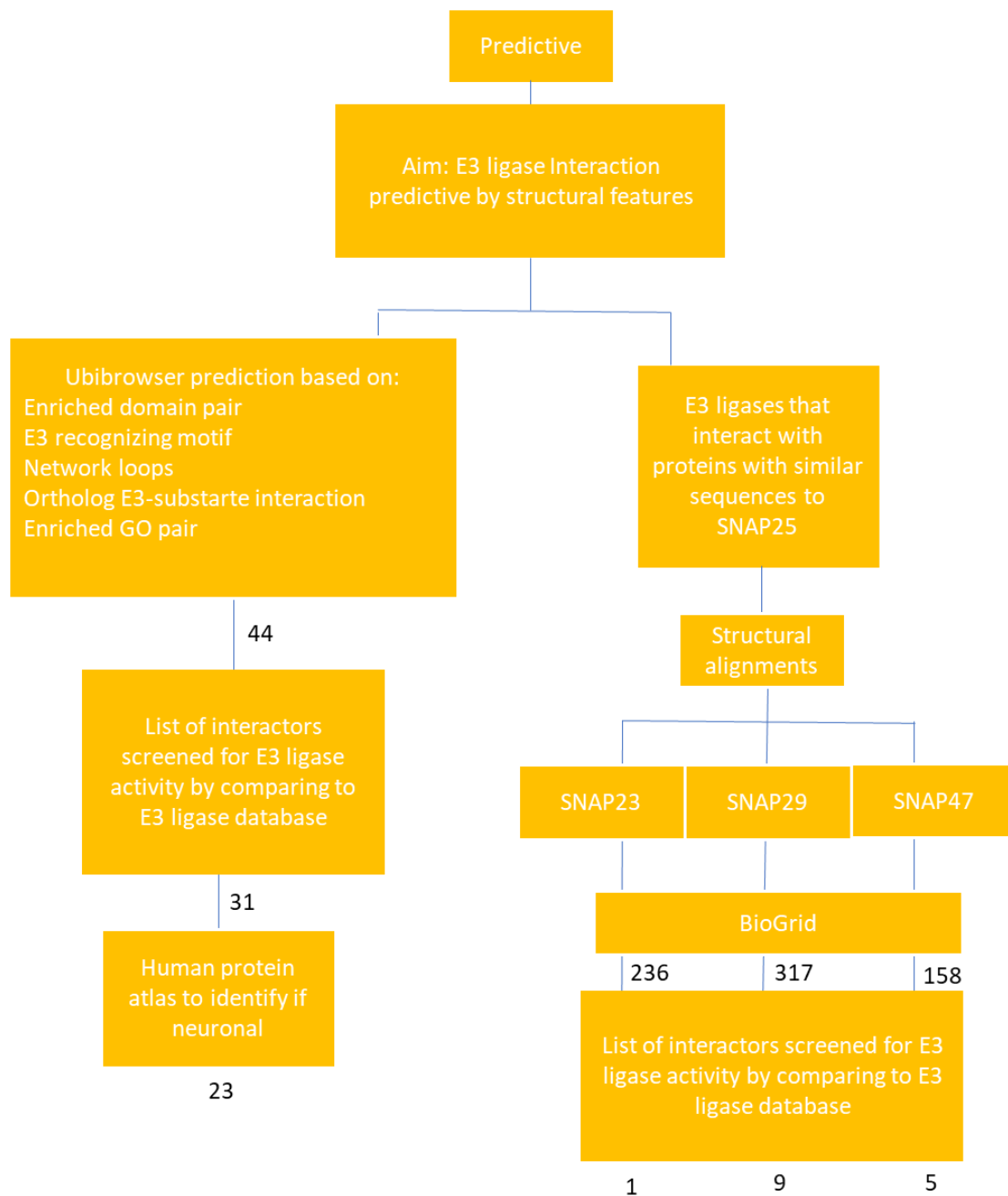


Figure 3.4: Workflow for predictive pathway to investigate E3 ligases that can interact and ubiquitinate SNAP-25. With the number of results returned for each stage of filtering.

The predictive approach used structural features to predict potential SNAP-25-E3 ligases interactions (Figure 3.4). The approach was developed around two routes. Firstly, two iterations of the prediction database, Ubibrowser predicted the likelihood of an E3 ligase-substrate interaction. The second route was rationalised on the basis that orthologues of SNAP-25 that serve as SNARE proteins in other vesicle trafficking reactions have sufficient structural and functional homology to be acted upon by shared or related E3 ligases. In this case, I used BioGrid (<https://thebiogrid.org/>) to identify interacting partners of these other SNAP-25 family members with an embedded E3-ligase activity

3.4.2.1 Motifs for interaction with ubiquitin.

Several different protein motifs are known to recognise and bind ubiquitin and can be used to predict candidate sites in proteins of interest (Lambrugh *et al.*, 2021). A common motif for the interaction of ubiquitin with substrate proteins is the ubiquitin-interacting motifs (UIM) (Miller, Malotky and O'Bryan, 2004). Such short linear motifs (SLM) are often found in disordered regions of large proteins. The Ubiquitin-Interacting Motif (UIM) motifs, also termed the LALAL motif, is approximately 20 residues and often found in proteins involved in ubiquitination (Lambrugh *et al.*, 2021). In addition, ligase consensus sequences can be used to predict if a ligase of interest is likely to interact with a substrate under investigation (i.e. SNAP-25). Sequence motifs can be constitutively accessible to an E3 ligase or may only be formed after adding a post-translational modification such as palmitoylation (Hunter, 2007). The specificity of E3 ligases ensures they ubiquitinate targets with recognition motifs. For specific examples of E3 ubiquitin ligases, recognition motifs are listed in Table 3.4 and were used to guide my investigations. Using these guides, SNAP-25, SNAP-23, SNAP-47 and SNAP29 were interrogated for the existence of explicit ubiquitination target sequences.

Table 3.4: Example E3 ubiquitin ligases with motifs they recognise in substrate proteins

E3 ubiquitin ligase	Recognition motif	Source
NEDD4	WW domains recognise: (Aragón <i>et al.</i> , 2012; Bobby PY motifs (PPxY, LPxY) (where x can be any amino acid) or al., 2013; Escobedo <i>et al.</i> , 2014; Qi <i>et al.</i> , 2014) Phosphor-threonine (pT) or phosphor-serine residues (pS)	
ITCH	WW domain binds polypeptides with the PP xY consensus sequence (where x can be any residue)	(Qiu <i>et al.</i> , 2000; Zarrin par and Lim, 2000)
APC/C	Recognises D box's (RxxLxxI/VxN) present on substrates	(da Fonseca <i>et al.</i> , 2011)

3.4.2.2 Ubibrowser: A bioinformatics platform for investigation into the human E3 ubiquitin ligase-substrate interaction network

Ubibrowser (http://ubibrowser.bio-it.cn/ubibrowser_v3/) was developed to facilitate an improved high-throughput way to identify candidate human E3 ligase-substrate interactions (Li *et al.*, 2017). The mUbiSiDa database of ubiquitination sites has over 30000 ubiquitination sites on over 5700 individual substrates (Chen *et al.*, 2014). Similarly, 900 human E3 ligase-substrate interactions have been collected into the E3Net database (Han *et al.*, 2012) as such responsible ubiquitin ligases are only assigned for a small number of ubiquitinated proteins. Ubibrowser was developed as a

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database to allow the identification and prediction of E3 ligase-substrate interactions at the proteome scale.

Ubibrowser uses a naïve Bayesian classifier-based computational algorithm (a discriminant method which classifies based on the prior probability), to combine multiple different types of biological evidence to predict human E3 ligase-substrate interactions. Biological evidence, including homology E3 ligase-substrate interactions, enriched domain and Gene Ontology (GO) term pair, protein interaction network loops and inferred E3 recognition consensus motifs, is used to predict human E3 ligase-substrate interactions (Li *et al.*, 2017).

For Ubibrowser 1.0, each prediction is given a significance score that is calculated as a prediction's rank to the number of all the predicted pairs multiplied by the substrate number for the corresponding E3 ligase. Significance scores were defined as <0.001 as high confidence <0.01 as middle confidence, <0.05 as low confidence and >0.05 as a very low confidence interaction. For the 2.0 update, the predicted interactions were sorted into descending order of confidence score and the top 1% of interactions were assigned high confidence, and the remaining 99% were classified as low-confidence interactions and not displayed in the network.

3.4.2.3 Testing Ubibrowser 1.0 and 2.0 for known synaptic E3 ligase-substrate interactions

Ubibrowser versions 1.0 and 2.0 were used to identify E3 ligase interactions of PSD-95, which has been well characterised and is known to interact with Mdm2 (Colledge *et al.*, 2003) to determine if these interactions are identified by the Ubibrowser database.

Both iterations of the database identified the PSD-95-Mdm2 interaction as well as a known interaction between PSD-95 and UBE3A. Both versions of the database also predicted other likely E3-ligase-PSD-95 interactions, with iteration 1.0 returning 172 predicted results and version 2.0 returning 24 results. The difference in results returned is due to an update in how each interaction is ranked, as such, the 24 results returned by version 2.0 are ranked at a higher confidence.

The ubibrowser has the potential to be a valuable tool as a starting point to identify known E3 ligase-substrate interactions and make evidence-based predictions on potential E3 ligase-substrate interactions, which can then be verified experimentally.

3.4.2.4 E3 ligases which have been predictive to interact with SNAP-25 based on specific domains and motifs using Ubibrowser

To identify E3 ligase-SNAP-25 potential interactions, both iterations of Ubibrowser were used. Ubibrowser 1.0 returned 44 predicted (Figure 3.5 and Appendix Table A1). Ubibrowser 2.0 returned one result for human interactions and a total of five for all eukaryotic species (summarised with biological evidence in Appendix Table A1.3). Neither search returned TRIM9 or FBX07 as interacting partners, which was unexpected due to literature-based searches already identifying them.

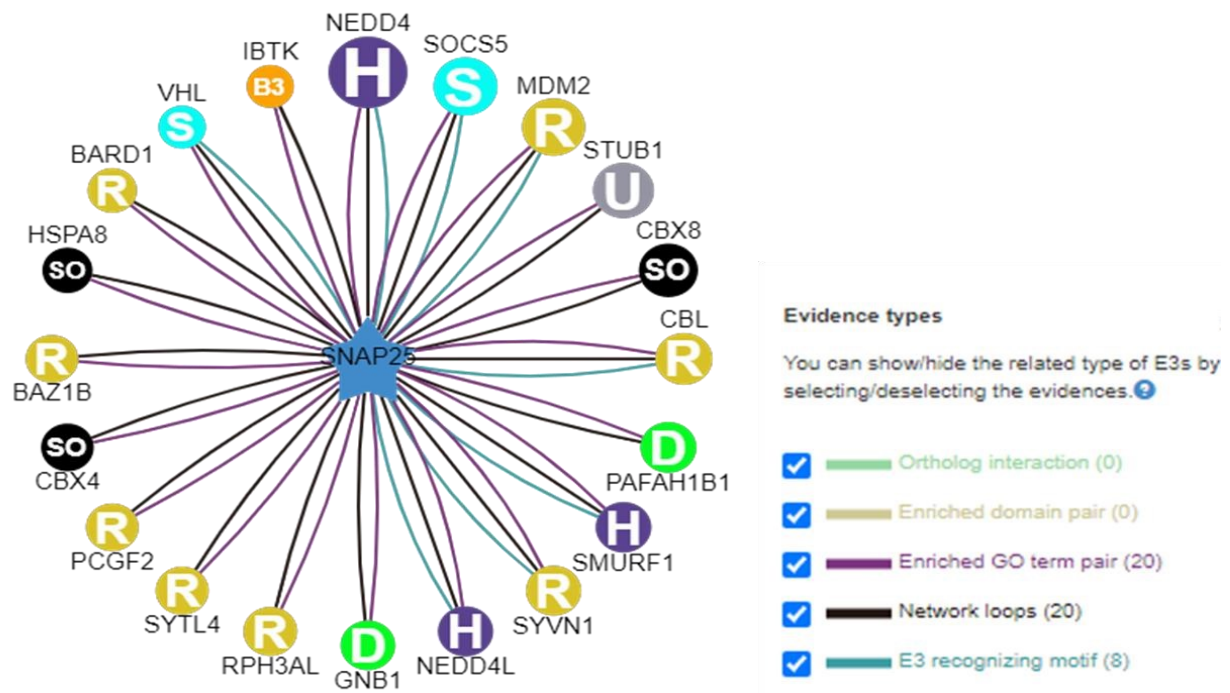


Figure 3.5: E3 ligases which are predicted to interact with SNAP-25 from Ubibrowser based on the likelihood of ortholog interactions, enriched domain pairs, enriched GO term pairs, network loops and E3 recognising motifs. The wheel depicting the ranked predicted interactions from Ubibrowser 1.0, with coloured arms connecting the centre of the wheel to the predicted E3 ligases, are coloured based on the evidence that supports the interaction; black represents evidence based on network loops, purple on enriched Go term pairs and blue on the presence of E3 recognising motifs.

3.4.2.5 E3 ligases identified by Ubibrowser 1.0 filtering

After collating E3 ligases, these were filtered by cross-checking against the Human E3 ubiquitin ligase database. The rationale here was to prioritise candidacy based on ensuring the identified proteins had E3 ubiquitin ligase activity and were not listed on Ubibrowser due to SUMO ligase or deubiquitinase activity.

This initial extraction included 44 proteins predicted by Ubibrowser 1.0 to interact with SNAP25. Deubiquitinating enzymes and SUMO ligases were removed, leaving a list of 31 candidate E3 ubiquitin ligases. Using the human protein atlas determined 23 proteins had evidence of brain localisation (Li *et al.*, 2017) (Table 3.5, Figure 3.6).

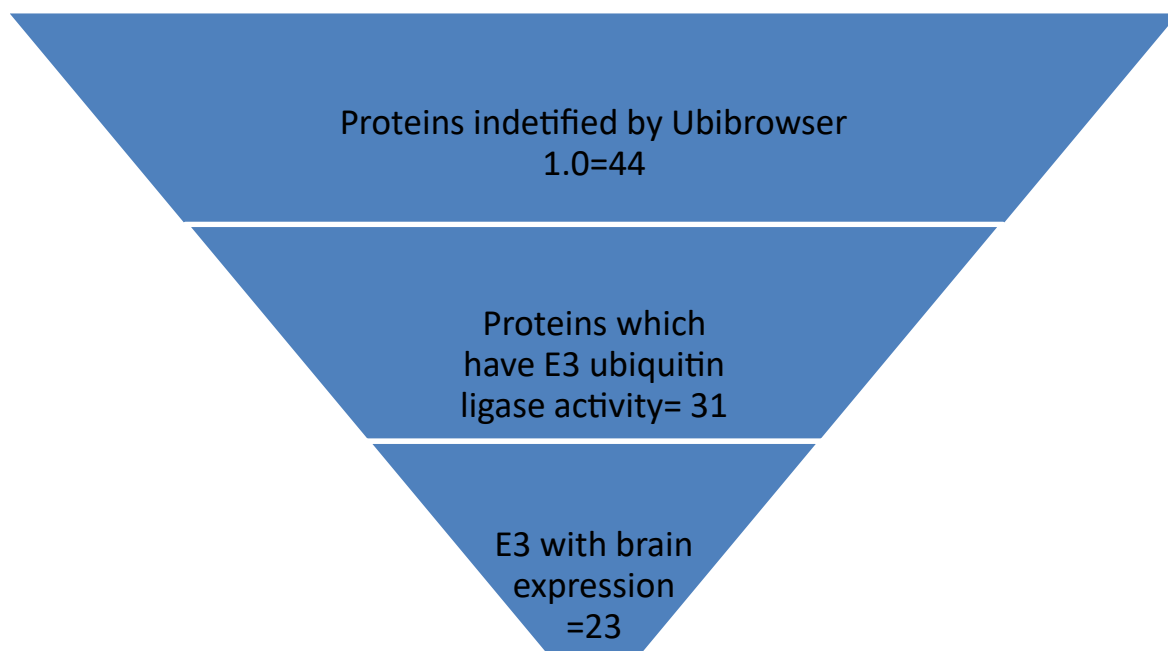


Figure 3.6: **Filtering approach applied to E3 ligases predicted to interact with SNAP-25 by Ubibrowser 1.0.**

3.4.2.6 E3 ligases identified by Ubibrowser 2.0 filtering

Of the 5 proteins predicted to interact with SNAP-25 across all mammalian species by Ubibrowser 2.0, all had known E3 ligase activity and all 5 are expressed in the human brain (Table 3.5).

Table 3.5: E3 ligases predicted to interact with SNAP-25 by Ubibrowser and be localised to human brain regions.

E3 ligases predicted to interact with SNAP-25 by Ubibrowser 1.0, with mRNA expressed in human brain regions listed in order of ranking.		E3 ligases predicted to interact with SNAP-25 by Ubibrowser 2.0, with mRNA expressed in human brain regions
NEDD4	PML	BTRC
SOCS5	TRIM27	BARD1
MDM2	TNFAIP1	ARIH1
STUB1	PPIL2	PRKN
CBL	WDTC1	RC3H2
SMURF1	SMURF2	
SYVN1	ASB2	
NEDD4L	PARK2	
HSPA8	CISH	
BARD1	FZR1	
MARCH 9	TTC3	
RNF216		

3.4.2.7 Mapping of Ubibrowser predicted E3 ligase candidates on SNAP-25 sequence

The Ubibrowser (http://ubibrowser.bio-it.cn/ubibrowser_v3/) predictions can be mapped onto SNAP-25's amino acid sequence to visually represent the domains that are expected to interact with specific E3 ligases (Figure 3.7). This highlights that different ligases are predicted to interact with different regions of the SNAP-25 structure and are likely to ubiquitinate at different lysine residues. Both HECT (NEDD4L recognition motif) and RING (BTRC and ASB2 motifs and HECT inferred recognition domain) inferred structure features were detected in SNAP-25, which suggests that members of either the RING or the HECT E3 ligase families may have the potential to interact with SNAP-25.

1 MAEDADMRNELEEMQRRADQLADESLESTRRMLQLVEESKDAGIRT

Inferred NEDD4L ligase

recognizing motif

47 LVMLDEQGEQLERIEEGMDQINKDMKEAEK NLTDLGKFCGLCV CPC

Inferred ASB2 ligase

recognizing motif

93 NKLKSSDAYKKAWGNNQDGVVASQPARVVDEREQMAISGGFIRRV

Inferred BTRC ligase

recognizing motif

139 NDAREN EMDENLEQVSGIIGNLRHMALDMGNEIDTQNRQIDRIMEK

Inferred HECT E3 recognizing domain

185 ADSNKTRIDEANQRATKMLGSG

Inferred BTRC motif

Figure 3.7: SNAP-25 amino acid sequence with inferred recognition domains and motifs of E3 ligases predicted by Ubibrowser 1.0 and 2.0

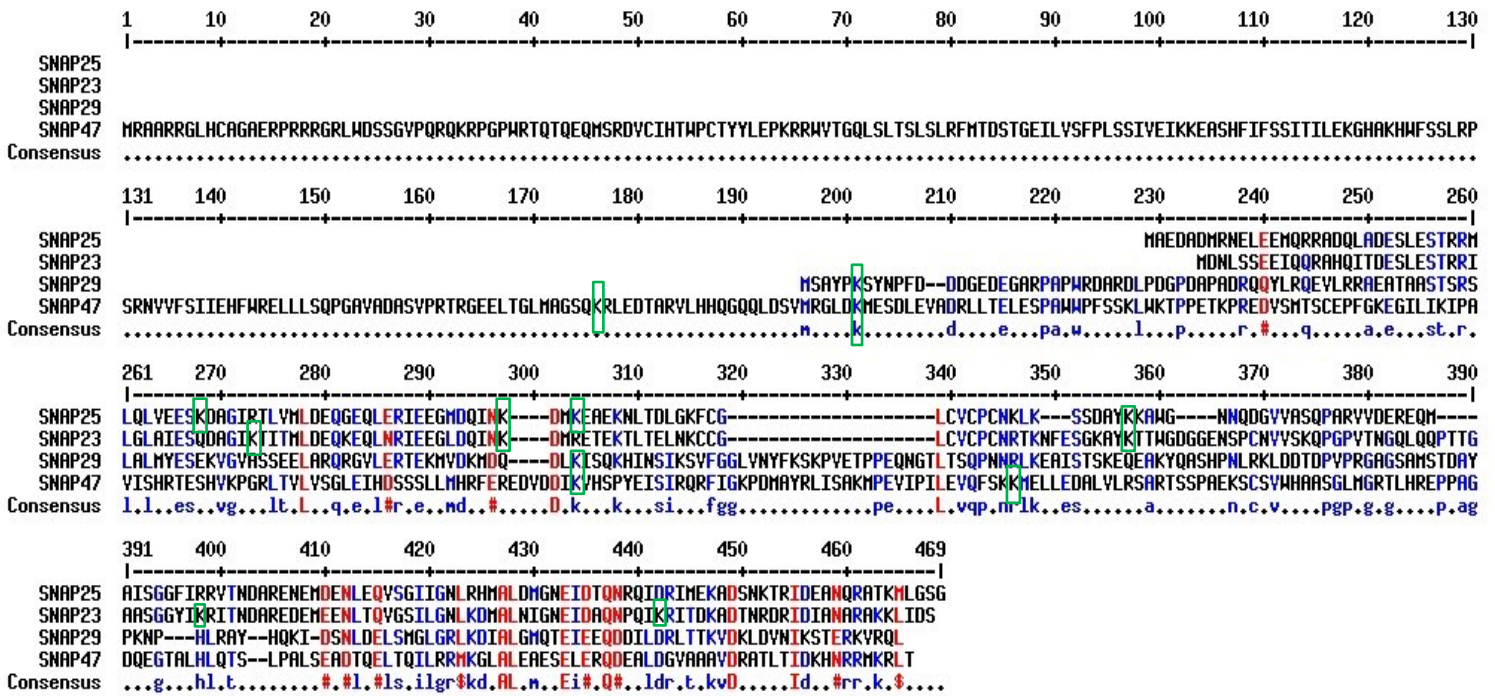
3.4.2.8 E3 ligases that interact with SNAP family proteins

Whilst the Ubibrowser database suggested domains and motifs that may increase the likelihood of interaction, none of the suggestions were based on known E3 ligase-substrate interactions for SNAP-25.

There are other SNAP family proteins present in vertebrates that SNAP-25 shares high homology with (Figure 3.8). I investigated whether any E3-ligases are known to interact with the other SNAP family proteins. Identifying domains and motifs in these sequences that facilitate these interactions, to determine whether these interactors could be possible for SNAP-25 also.

3.4.2.9 Sequence identity between SNAP family proteins

The amino acid sequences and 3D structures of the SNAP family proteins were compared and aligned to identify levels of homology (Figure 3.8). Structural overlays were done to identify conserved SNARE interaction domains, which harbour SNAP 25 lysine's and to determine if there is conservation in E3 ligase recognition motifs and domains between the family members. SNAP23 has ~60% sequence identity to SNAP25 at the amino acid. SNAP-29 has a longer N-terminal section than both SNAP-25 and SNAP-23, but has levels of homology throughout most of the sequence (Figure 3.8, B) . SNAP-29 had a 26% identity with SNAP-23 and a 32% identity with SNAP-25. The regions of highest homology of SNAP-29 to SNAP-23 and SNAP-25 reside in the amino- and carboxyl-terminal thirds of the SNAP-29 protein (Figure 3.8, C). SNAP-47 is the longest member of the SNAP protein family, and like SNAP-29, has longer linker domains and lacks the palmitoylated cysteines of SNAP-25 and SNAP-23. SNAP-47 alignment with the sequence of SNAP-25 revealed longer N and C-terminal sections with some levels of homology throughout the sequence (Figure 3.8,D), but to lower levels than that of SNAP-23 and SNAP29. The SNAP family proteins share conservation of the fold around the SNARE helices and linker unfolded regions, yet there is a large variation in the disordered regions (Figure 3.8). BioGRID (<https://thebiogrid.org/>) and Ubibrowser were then used to identify known or predicted E3-substrate interactions within the SNAP family protein sequences, which may be suggestive of the potential for interactions with SNAP-25.



A

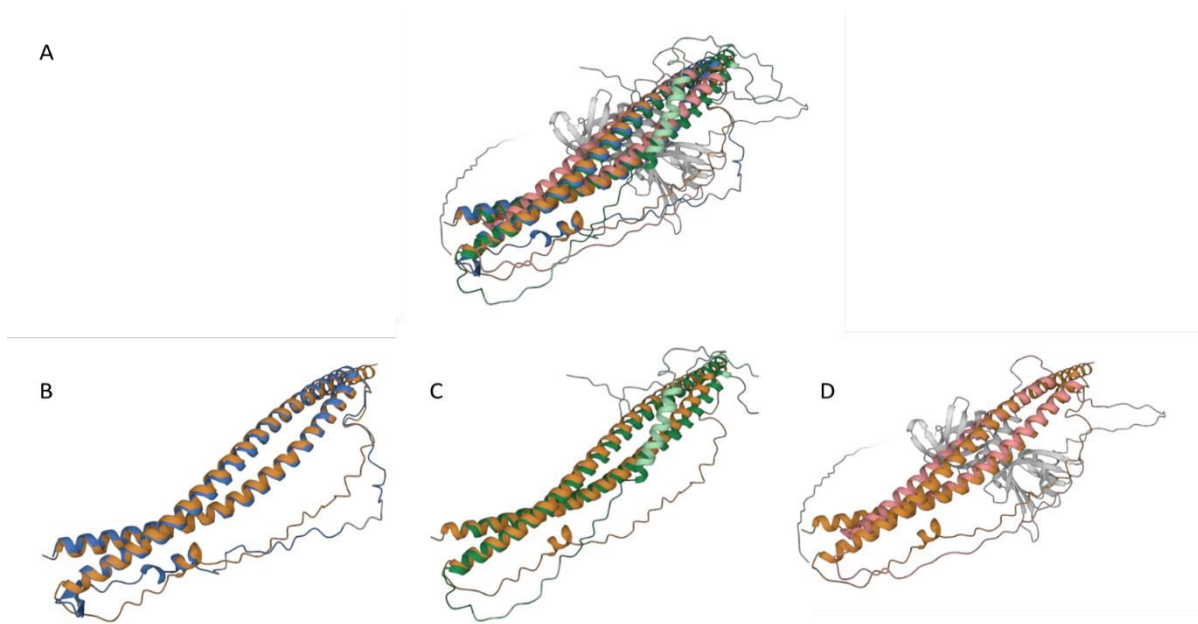


Figure 3.8: Sequence alignment and structural homology of the SNAP family SNARE proteins. Top alignment of the primary amino acid code of SNAP family proteins present in vertebrates (F. CORPET, 1988) Lysines (K), which have been shown experimentally to be ubiquitinated highlighted in green. Bottom A: overlay structural alignment of SNAP-25 (orange), SNAP-23 (blue), SNAP-29 (green) and SNAP-47 (pink). B: SNAP-25 (orange) and SNAP-23 (blue). C: SNAP-25 (orange) and SNAP-29 (green). D: SNAP-25 (orange) and SNAP-47 (pink/white) (RCSB PDB - Structure Pairwise Alignment Tool)

3.4.2.10 Identification of E3 ligases known to interact with SNAP family proteins

BioGRID (<https://thebiogrid.org/>) was used to identify known interactions of SNAP-23, SNAP-29 and SNAP-47. For SNAP-23, this produced a list of 236 interacting partners experimentally identified.

Comparison to the Human E3 ubiquitin ligase database led to the identification of one E3 ubiquitin ligase, ZFPL1, and two accessory proteins to E3 ligases had ANKFY1 and KCTD7.

For SNAP-29, 317 interacting partners were identified, of which nine of the proteins, RFWD2, RNF183, RNF20, RNF40, TRAF3, TRAF6, TRIM26, TRIM62 and ZFPL1 had established E3 ubiquitin ligase activity, and one; KCTD7, was an E3 ligase accessory protein.

SNAP-47 produced a list of 158 interacting partners, of which five, MARCH 5, MID2, RNF170, TRIM59 and ZFPL1 had E3 ubiquitin ligase activity and one, KCTD7, functioned as an E3 ligase accessory protein.

3.4.2.11 Filtering of E3 ligases identified to interact with SNAP family proteins

The E3 ligases identified by BioGRID were filtered for neuronal expression and listed in Table 3.6.

None of the E3 ligases identified to interact with SNAP-23, 29 or 47 (see Table 3.6) were predicted to interact with SNAP-25 by Ubibrowser or identified by BioGrid as being an interactor of SNAP-25. Yet it was identified that all of the SNAP-25 family members had a conserved Inferred HECT E3 recognition domain.

ZFPL1 was confirmed to interact with SNAP-23, SNAP-29 and SNAP-47 and due to the high levels of conservation between these family members and SNAP-25, may be a good candidate for an E3 ligase for SNAP-25.

Table 3.6: E3 ligases identified by BioGrid which have been shown to interact with SNAP proteins which have structural homology with SNAP-25.

SNAP-23 E3 ligases	SNAP-29 E3 ligases	SNAP-47 E3 ligases
ZFPL1	RFWD2	MARCH5
	RNF183	MID2
	RNF20	RNF170
	RNF40	TRIM59
	TRAF3	ZFPL1
	TRAF6	
	TRIM26	
	TRIM62	
	ZFPL1	

3.4.2.12 Identification of E3 ligase interaction domains and motifs in SNAP-family proteins

The Ubibrowser database was used to predict and visualise E3 ligase-interacting domains and motifs in the SNAP-family amino acid sequences (Figure 3.9).

From Ubibrowser version 1, SNAP-23, SNAP-29 and SNAP-25 shared an inferred HECT E3 recognition domain and 33 overlapping predicted E3 ligase interactions out of a total of 46 for SNAP-23 and 24 overlapping predicted E3 ligase interactions out of a total of 27 for SNAP-29. SNAP-47 does not share the Inferred HECT E3 recognition domain with the other SNAP family members but does share 13 overlapping predicted E3 ligase interactions out of a total of 20 with SNAP-25 in addition to inferred ASB2, NEDD4L, SYVN1 and RNF180 recognition motifs. All of the inferred motifs are in the C-terminal portions of each of the SNAP family members, which is the most conserved section, and whilst SNAP-25, 23, and 29 all share an inferred HECT E3 recognition domain, the sequences of each of these domains differ which may suggest that even through there is not full homology if an E3 binds to one SNAP family member there is the potential that it may be able to interact with other members.

SNAP-23

1 MDNLSSEIIQ QRAHQITDES LESTRILGL AIESQDAGIK TITMLDEQKE
51 QLNRIEEGLD QINKDMRETE KTLTELNKCC GLCVCPCNRT KNFESGKAYK
101 TTWGDGGENS PCNVVSKQPG PVTNGQLQP TTGAASGGYI KRITNDARED
151 EMEENLTQVG SILGNLKDMA LNIGNEIDAQ NPQIKRITDK ADTNRDRIDI
Inferred HECT E3 Recognition domain
201 ANARAKKLID S

SNAP-29

1 MSAYPKSYNP FDDGGEDEGA RPAPWRDARD LPDGPDPAD RQQYLR
49 QEVL RRAEATAAST SRSLALMYES EKVGVASSEE LARQRGVLER TE
93 KMKDKMDQ DLKISQKHIN SIKSVFGGLV NYFKSKPVET PPEQNGTL
139 TS QPNNRLKEAI STSKEQEAKY QASHPNLRKL DDTDPVPRGA GSAM
185 STDAYP KNPFLRAYHQ KIDSNLDELS MGLGRLKDIA LGMQTEIEEQ
231 DDILDRLTTK VDKLDVNIKS TERKVRQL
Inferred HECT E3 recognition domain

SNAP-47

1 MRAARRGLHCAGAERPRRRGRLWDSSGVPQRQKRP GPWRTQTQEQM
47 SRDVCIHWPCTYYLEPKRRWVTGQLSLTSLSLRFMTDSTGEILVS
93 FPLSSIVEIKKEASHFIFSSITILEKGHKHWFSSLRPSRNVVFSI
139 IEHFWRELLLSQPGAVADASVPRTRGEELTGLMAGSQKRLED TARV
185 LHHQGQQLDSVMRGLDKMESDLEVADRLLTELESPAWWPFSSKLWK
231 TPPETK PREDVSMTSCEPFGKEGILIKIPAVISHRTESHVKPGRLT
277 VLVSGLEIH DSSLLMHRFEREDVDDIKVHSPYEISIRQRFIGKPD
Inferred ASB2 recognizing motif
323 MAYRLISAKMPEVIPILEVQFSKMKMELLE DALVLR SARTSSPAEKS
Inferred NEDD4L recognizing motif
369 CSVWHAASGLMGR TLHREPPAGDQEGTALHLQTSLPALSEADTQEL
Inferred SYVN1 recognizing motif
415 TQILRR MKGLALEAESELERQDEALDGVAAAVDRATLTIDKHNRM
461 KRLT
Inferred RNF180 recognizing motif

Figure 3.9: SNAP family members amino acid sequences; SNAP-23, SNAP-29 and SNAP-47. Amino acid sequences with experimentally verified ubiquitinated lysines highlighted in yellow and predicted inferred recognition motifs of E3 ligases underlined.

3.4.2.13 E3 ligases identified to be of interest from the predictive approach

All of the E3 ligases predicted by the Ubibrowser databases (Table 3.6) are ligases that could be interesting to test regarding interaction with and ubiquitination of SNAP-25. However, a more focused list of E3 ligases which have been identified to have neuronal expression and synaptic localisation would include:

- ASB2 is predicted to interact due to the presence of an interacting motif in SNAP-25
- BTRC is predicted to interact due to the presence of an interacting motif in SNAP-25
- NEDD4L is predicted to interact due to the presence of an interacting motif in SNAP-25
- BARD1 due to being predicted to interact by both iterations of the database due to enriched GO pair analysis and network loops.
- ZFPL1 due to interactions with all three SNAP family members (SNAP-23, 29 and 47)
- NEDD4 due to being the highest-ranked predicted interaction

3.4.2.14 E3 ligases with disease-related support for interaction with SNAP-25

Further ligases which were predicted to interact with a lower ranking but have evidence of involvement in disorders with an association of SNAP-25 (data not shown) may also be interesting to test these including: CUL3, FBXW7, STUB1, PARKIN, PRAJ-1, UBE3A, TTC3.

3.4.3 Screens of E3 ligases of interest

Once E3 ligases were identified by literature searches and/or structural predictions, it was investigated whether any proteomic screens had been carried out for each of the ligases to determine if an interaction with SNAP-25 had previously been identified in a high-throughput screen that had yet to be followed up (Table 3.7).

Proteomic studies for the identification of E3 ligase-substrate interactions often involve the use of either microarrays with ubiquitination assays or the extraction of protein samples from either tissue or cell types, followed by mass spectroscopy analysis to identify proteins which are ubiquitinated in an environment with an overexpression of an E3 ligase.

Interactions of E3 ligase-substrates or a change in ubiquitination require validation via further biochemical investigation, whilst ubiquitination microarray assays require investigation into where the interaction is likely to be biologically relevant.

It was investigated whether each of the prioritized E3 ligases had been used as bait in a Proteomic screen and whether this proteomic screen had taken place in a system where SNAP25 was present, and as such, an E3 ligase-SNAP-25 interaction would have been identified.

Table 3.7: Identified interactions screens undertaken in the literature

E3 ligase	Any proteomic screen undertaken	Was SNAP-25 looked for	Was SNAP-25 identified	Sources
E3 ligases identified in the predictive approach				
TRIM9	Yes BioID in primary cortical neurons	Yes	No	(Menon et al., 2021)
FBXO7	Yes <i>In vitro</i> ubiquitination screen of human microarray	Yes	Yes	(Teixeira <i>et al.</i> , 2016)
Priority E3 ligase identified in the predictive approach				
ZFPL1	No screens identified			
BTRC	No screens identified			
ASB2	Yes Nano-LC-ESI-LTQ-Orbitrap MS/MS Analysis of ASB2 expressing and non-expressing of PLB 985 cells (human blood cell line)	SNAP-25 is not predicted to be actively secreted into the blood	No	(Burande et al., 2009)
NEDD4	Yes <i>In vitro</i> ubiquitylation and binding assays using a microarray of human proteins	Yes	No	(Persaud et al., 2009)
NEDD4-2	Yes, <i>In vitro</i> Ubiquitylation and binding assays UPLC-MS/MS of isolated membrane fractions from Nedd4-2 <i>+/+</i> and <i>-/-</i> mouse whole brains	Yes	No No	(Persaud et al., 2009) (Eagleman et al., 2021)

BARD1	Yes, Quantitative proteomic mass spectroscopy	Mouse embryonic fibroblasts	No	(Song et al., 2011)
E3 ligases identified in predictive with a medium priority				
SOCS5	Yes, Affinity Capture-MS 293T cells and HCT116 cells	Yes	No	(Huttlin et al., 2021)
MDM2	Affinity Capture- Luminescence Affinity Capture- MS Proximity LabelMS	Yes	No	(Trepte et al., 2018) (Huttlin et al., 2015) (Kido et al., 2020)
CBL	Affinity Capture- MS Co-fractionation	Yes	No	(Erdem-Eraslan et al., 2015) (Golkowski et al., 2023) (Havugimana et al., 2022)
SMURF1	Affinity CaptureMS	Yes	No	(Huttlin et al., 2015) (Du et al., 2021) (Andrews et al., 2010)
SYVN1	Affinity Capture- MS Proximity LabelMS	Yes	No	(Fenech et al., 2020) (Huttlin et al., 2021)
E3 ligases identified in the predictive approach with lower priority				
CUL3	Protein extracts from E16.5 cortices from mutant cul3 analysed.	Yes	No	(Morandell et al., 2021)
FBXW7	Quantitative proteomics combined with degron motif searches in human colorectal cancer cell line <i>FBW7</i>	Expressed in some colon cell types	No	(Arabi et al., 2012)
STUB1	No screens identified			

PARKIN	Yes, BioUb strategy followed by MS in flies. diGly capture proteomics (diGly) HeLa ^{PARKIN} cells	Yes Yes	Yes, SNAP-25 is more ubiquitinated but has less than 2-fold enrichment in parkin overexpression flies Yes	(Martinez et al., 2017) (Sarraff et al., 2013)
PRAJ-1	Protein microarray ubiquitylated using UBE2D3 as the E2 and Praja1 as the E3	Yes	No supplementary data available	(Loch et al., 2011)
UBE3A	AP-MS analysis of SH-SY5Y cells transfected with UBE3A constructs	Yes (Undifferentiated)	No	(Martínez-Noël et al., 2018)
TTC3	No screens identified			
HSPA8	Affinity Capture-MS Co-fractionation Cross-Linking-MS (XL-MS)	Yes	No	(Huttlin et al., 2021) (Havugimana et al., 2022) (Wheat et al., 2021)
MARCH	No highthroughput screens			
RNF216	No screens identified			
PML	Affinity CaptureMS	Yes	No	(Maillet et al., 2020)
TRIM27	Affinity CaptureMS	Yes	No	(Hein et al., 2015)
TNFAIP1	Affinity CaptureMS Negative Genetic	Yes	No	(Asmar et al., 2023) (Bennett et al., 2010) (Ito et al., 2021)
PPIL2	Affinity CaptureLuminescence	Yes	No	(Hegele et al., 2012) (Hart et al., 2015)
	Affinity CaptureMS			

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WDTC1	Affinity CaptureMS Proximity LabelMS	Yes	No	(Bennett et al., 2010) (Raisch et al., 2023)
SMURF2	Affinity CaptureMS	Yes	No	(Huttlin et al., 2015)
CISH	Affinity CaptureMS Protein microarray	Yes	No	(Hüttenhain et al., 2019) (Jones et al., 2006)
FZR1	Affinity CaptureMS Proximity dependent labelling	Yes	No	(Oh et al., 2020) (Chen et al., 2014)
ARIH1	Affinity CaptureMS BioID in HEK293 cells	Yes	No	(Huttlin et al., 2015) (Coyaud et al., 2015)
RC3H2	Affinity CaptureMS Proximity LabelMS	Yes	No	(Huttlin et al., 2021) (Youn et al., 2018)

Some E3 ligases identified were removed from the list of E3 ligases to test based on proteomic screens not identifying SNAP-25 interactions (Table 3.7). Whilst both Need4 and Need4l were predicted to interact with SNAP-25 by Ubibrowser and had an association with several disorders where SNAP-25 is down-regulated in neither was identified to interact with SNAP-25 in proteomic screens in samples where SNAP-25 would have been present; this is also true for CUL3, FBXW7 and UBE3A.

Whilst TRIM9 and FBX07 identified as promising candidates via the literature-based approach, and Parkin identified via Ubibrowser, evidence from proteomic screens provides additional support for a potential interaction and as such, should be tested as high-priority candidates using the BioID assay developed in the next chapter.

3.5 Discussion

The aim of the work summarised in this chapter was to identify candidate E3 ligases with the potential to ubiquitinate SNAP-25. This bioinformatics approach was carried out in order to make informed decisions on candidate E3 ligases that should be taken forward to carry out experimental investigations.

It is known that SNAP-25 is ubiquitinated and that this contributes to SNAP-25's turnover and it can be blocked by inhibitors and seems sensitive to neuronal activity. Whilst SNAP-25 ubiquitination can happen as part of biogenesis, it seems particularly important in the context of the nerve terminals, essentially as dysfunctional turnover is implicated in disease processes, including models of degeneration and brain disease (Sharma, Burré and Südhof, 2011, Sheehan *et al.*, 2016). However, the details of this do not predict which or what the preferred ubiquitination mechanism of SNAP-25 is. All classes of E3 ligases are implicated in the turnover of SNAP-25 in neurons. Thus, we have an open mind on which E3 ubiquitin ligases could ubiquitinate SNAP-25.

The E3 ligases to take forward have been identified by bioinformatic approaches and have either been suggested to interact with SNAP-25 via a literature-based search or predictive modelling and identification in proteomic screens (Figure 3.10).

Priority E3 ligases
High priority
TRIM9, FBX07, Parkin
Medium priority
ASB2, BTRC, STUB1, PJA-1
Lower priority
ZFPL1
BARD1

Figure 3.10: Summary of E3 ligases with the potential to interact with and ubiquitinate SNAP-25.

Priority to test the interactions experimentally ranked on the likelihood of an interaction taking place based on the evidence identified by the bioinformatics approaches.

3.5.1 Discussion high-priority E3 ligases

3.5.1.1 TRIM9 was identified as an interacting partner of SNAP-25

TRIM9 (RBCC tripartite motif-containing proteins), initially termed SPRING (a SNAP-25-interacting RING finger protein) is a RING Finger Protein formed of a RING finger domain with two B box motifs and a coiled-coil domain, making it part of the RING-B box coiled-coil (RBCC) subfamily of RING finger proteins. TRIM9 has two validated ubiquitination substrates, DCC and VASP (Y. Li *et al.*, 2001, Winkle *et al.*, 2014, Menon *et al.*, 2015) (Figure 3.11).

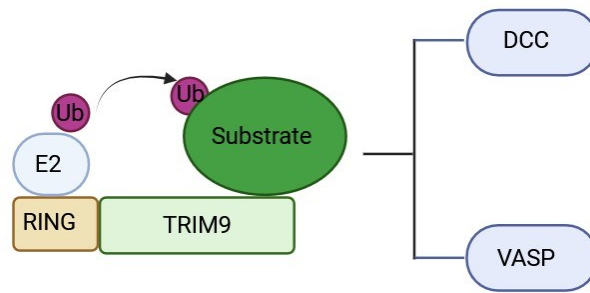


Figure 3.11: Protein ubiquitination pathway for TRIM9, with verified ubiquitination substrates DCC and VASP. DCC is ubiquitinated by TRIM9 to downregulate pathways responsible for axon branching and vesicle fusion. VASP is ubiquitinated, leading to a loss of localisation and a downregulation of filopodial stability and axonal guidance.

TRIM9 interacts with SNAP-25, in a yeast two-hybrid (Yankun Li et al., 2001). *In vitro* binding assays using recombinant His-tagged TRIM9 and GST-SNAP-25 independently verify the interaction between TRIM9 and SNAP-25. Importantly, TRIM9 did not interact with Syntaxin-1, VAMP-2 or SNAP-23. (Yankun Li et al., 2001). TRIM9 is expressed in the brain and enriched in neurons (Berti et al., 2002; Reymond et al., 2001; Tanji et al., 2010). Interestingly, the TRIM9 interaction with SNAP25 abolishes SNAP-25's ability to assemble into the SNARE complex (Yankun Li et al., 2001).

The binding domains of SNAP-25 and TRIM9 were investigated by Li et al using deletion analysis to identify the specific domains required for the association of the two proteins. Only GST-tagged SNAP-25 fusion proteins containing the N-terminal of the t-SNARE domain interacted with TRIM9 (Figure 3.12). The C-terminal t-SNARE domain and the central domain were not required for interaction. The N-terminal of SNAP-25 has previously been shown to be required for binding to Syntaxin-1, whilst both SNAP-25's N- and C-termini are required for binding to VAMP2. The B box C-terminal coiled-coil domain of TRIM9 was required to interact with SNAP25, whilst the RING finger, B Box domains, C-terminal and SPRY domains were not required (Yankun Li et al., 2001).

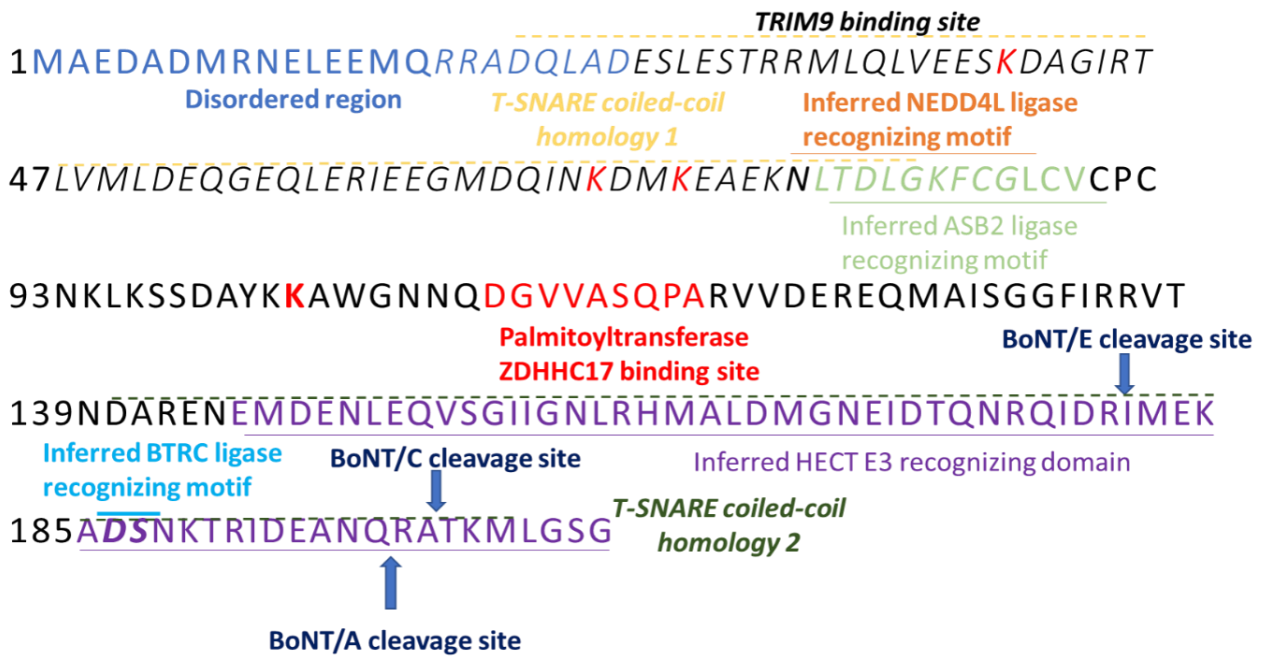


Figure 3.12: Features of SNAP-25 structure, including domains marked by dashed lines, known interacting sites of TRIM9 and Palmitoyltransferase ZDHHC17 responsible for SNAP-25 palmitoylation, inferred E3 ligase interacting sites determined by the predictive approach undertaken in this chapter and known BoNT cleavage sites.

TRIM9 synaptic localisation may position it to modulate synaptic vesicle exocytosis by preventing the formation of SNARE complexes and maintaining SNAP-25 in an inactive state. Whilst it has been confirmed that SNAP-25 and TRIM9 interact, no ubiquitination assays were reported, determining if SNAP-25 is ubiquitinated by TRIM9. The selectivity of interaction and the neuronal expression and sub-compartment enrichment raise interest in Trim9's potential to function as an E3 ligase in the case of SNAP-25

3.5.1.2 FBX07 identified as an interacting partner of SNAP-25

The second E3 ligase identified by the literature-based approach was RING-type FBX07, encoded by PARK15, a clinically relevant F-box protein which has been linked to cancer (Nelson et al., 2013) and early-onset autosomal recessive Parkinson's disease (Zhou et al., 2016, Zhong et al., 2023). The F-box proteins are the substrate-binding constituents of the four subunits of the ubiquitin protein ligase complex SKP1-cullin-F-box (SCFs) (Winston et al., 1999) and act as both the substrate recognition and binding domain. Currently, FBX07 has 8 validated ubiquitination substrates; hepatoma up-regulated protein (HURP) (Hsu et al., 2004), cellular inhibitor of apoptosis protein 1 (c-IAP1) (Chang et al., 2006), TNF receptor-associated factor 2 (TRAF2) (Kuiken et al., 2012), Glycogen synthase kinase 3 β (Gsk3 β), translocase of outer mitochondrial membrane

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20 (Tomm20) (Teixeira et al., 2016b), Ubiquitously expressed Transcript isoform 2 (UXTV2),

(Spagnol et al., 2021), Neurotrophin Receptor-Interacting MAGE

Homolog (NRAGE) (Kang and Chung, 2015) and phosphofruktokinase (PFKP) (Harris et al., 2022).

Ubiquitination of these substrates (summarised in Figure 3.13) leads to either the degradation of the substrate, regulation of substrate activity or regulation of localisation or regulation of the NF- κ B signalling pathway.

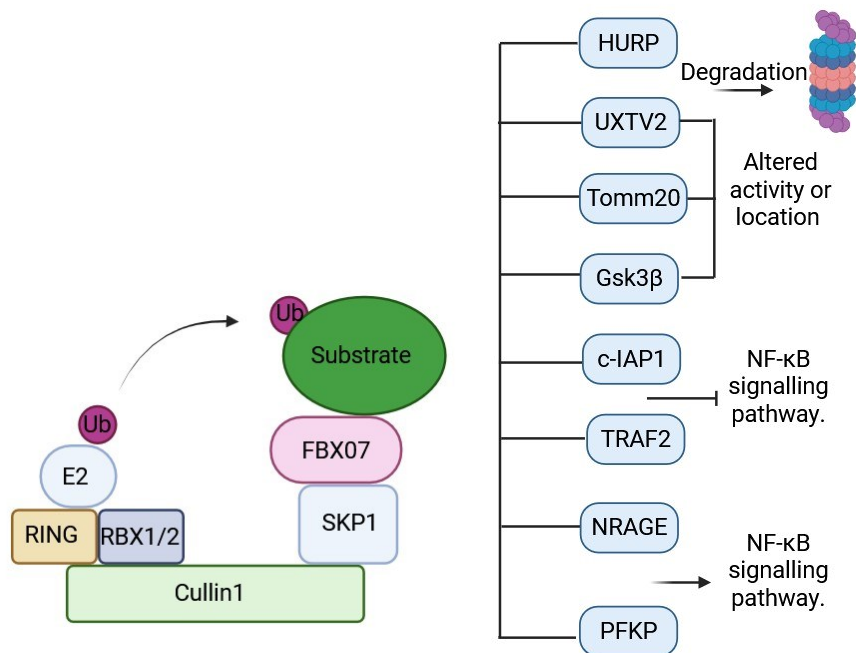


Figure 3.13: Protein ubiquitination pathway for FBXO7 in SCF complex, with Cullin1 acting as a protein scaffold, bound to RBX1 as the catalytic core and the substrate recognition module FBXO7 bound to SKP1. With the transfer of ubiquitin from an E2 to the bound substrate. The substrates of FBXO7: Ubiquitination of HURP and UXTV2 leads to their subsequent degradation, ubiquitination of UXTV2, Tomm20, and Gsk3 β leads to alteration in their activity or localisation, ubiquitination of c-IAP1 and TRAF2 leads to inhibition of the NF- κ B signalling pathway, whilst ubiquitination of NRAGE and PFKP leads to the upregulation of the NF- κ B signalling pathway

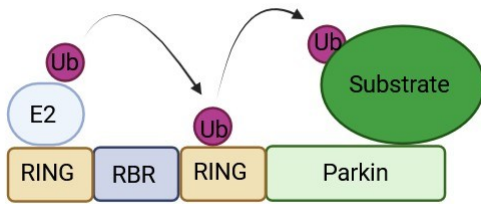
SNAP-25 was identified to be one of 338 potential ubiquitinated substrates of SCFFbxo7 via a high-throughput screen using protein arrays to identify new candidate proteins that are ubiquitinated by the ligase complex. The interaction has not been independently validated (Teixeira et al., 2016a).

Interestingly, FBXO7 and SNAP-25 are both on the University College London's Parkinson's disease-relevant priority protein list for annotation concerning disease relevance ('ebi.ac.uk/Parkinsons UK-UCL'). In the case of FBXO7, the genetic association with disease warrants this, whilst SNAP-25 has a more causal link. Whilst no direct link has been validated between the two due to the identification

of SNAP-25 in the high-throughput screen and the established role FBXO7 has in synaptic proteostasis (Vingill *et al.*, 2016, J. Wang *et al.*, 2023, Kulkarni *et al.*, 2023), leads it to being a candidate that requires further research to explore a potential interaction.

3.5.1.3 Parkin is a promising candidate to interact with SNAP-25

Parkin, a HECT-like RBR E3 ubiquitin ligase, is predicted to interact with SNAP-25 by Ubibrowser. Parkin has a synaptic localisation and is involved in several disorders in which SNAP-25 is downregulated in. In addition to using the Ubibrowser prediction of Parkin, I interrogated the literature and identified 2 proteomic-based screens that provide evidence of an association of Parkin with SNAP-25 (Sarraf *et al.*, 2013, Martinez *et al.*, 2017). Parkin has a large and diverse number of substrates (Figure 3.14) this has led to the suggest that unlike some E3 ligases, Parkin does not require specific peptide sequences to be present in its substrates for recognition and ubiquitination, but instead Parkins ability to recognise substrates can be influenced by factors such as depolarization of the mitochondria, the presence of phosphorylated ubiquitin or the state and location of a specific protein (Walden and Martinez-Torres, 2012, Koyano *et al.*, 2019). Parkin has been identified as a causal gene responsible for hereditary recessive early-onset Parkinsonism (Kitada *et al.*, 1998) and has a well-established role in mitochondrial quality control by mediating mitophagy (Narendra *et al.*, 2008). Other work has shown that Parkin also has a role in the maturation of endosomes, their sorting and their fusion with lysosomes for degradation by ubiquitinating endosomal proteins such as Rab7 and VPS35 (Song *et al.*, 2016) and has been shown to interact and ubiquitinate with proteins present at the plasma membrane (Sassone *et al.*, 2017) such as PSD 95 (L *et al.*, 2002) and with synaptotagmin XI (Dp *et al.*, 2003).



Mitofusins (MFN1 and MFN2)	Miro1	Pael-R	Synphilin-1
Voltage-Dependent Anion Channels (VDAC1, VDAC2, VDAC3)	Tom20	Cyclin E	Ataxin-3 and Ataxin-2
STEP61	α/β -tubulin	RanBP2	I κ κ (NEMO)
TRAF2	PLC γ 1	Eps15	Bcl-2
Drp1	PICK1	FBP1	α -Sp22
CDCrel-1 and CDCrel-2a	Synaptotagmin XI	p38	

Figure 3.14: Protein ubiquitination pathway for Parkin, which functions as a RING between RING E3 ubiquitin protein ligase and list of validated Parkin substrates List of Parkin substrates (Sarraf et al., 2013)

3.5.2 E3 ligases to test with a medium priority

E3 ligases that should be investigated as a medium priority include ASB2 and BTRC, which were predicted to interact with SNAP-25 due to motifs present in SNAP-25's structure. STUB1, which was predicted to interact by Ubibrowser and associated with four disorders, SNAP-25 is downregulated in, whilst PJA-1, which is associated with three disorders that SNAP-25 is downregulated in. Each of these four ligases has either not had a proteomic screen undertaken in a tissue type where SNAP25 is expressed, or the data is unavailable.

3.5.3 E3 ligases to test with a lower priority

Finally ZFPL1 and BARD1 are of potential interest, ZFPL1 was identified to interact with SNAP23, 29 and 47 so may have the potential to interact with SNAP-25 due to shared homology, whilst BARD1

was the only protein predicted to interact with SNAP-25 by both interactions of Ubibrowser but a screen undertaken in mouse fibroblasts did not identify SNAP-25 as an interactor.

3.5.4 Limitations of methods and databases used

3.5.4.1 Algorithm mismatching prediction and data.

I used both iterations of Ubibrowser. Whilst these represent iterations of an algorithm, they provided distinct results due to the weighting provided for the ranking of predictions. They are rationalised based on criteria set out in the Methods Section 2.2.5. Despite their ability to predict some experimentally verified E3 ligase interactions with other synaptic proteins I tested, I found no “known” literature-based interactions for SNAP-25. With ubibrowser 1.0, manual literature mining only included papers before the 1st January 2010, and only 913 E3 ligase substrate pairs were identified, which may explain why reported interactions of SNAP-25 were missing, such as SNAP-25-FBX07, which was published in 2016.

3.5.4.2 Loss of potential candidate E3 ligases by filtering

Ubibrowser ranked E3 ligases as high, medium and low confidence interactions, due to the large number of E3 ligases suggested with little evidence only high confidence ligase or those with further evidence were taken forward however since the resource was used a low confidence ranked E3 ligase TFNAIP1 has been investigated and shown to form a conjugate with SNAP-25 leading to SNAP-25 being 48-linked poly-ubiquitinated at SNAP-25 position K69 (W. Wang et al., 2023). In this work, SNAP-25 ubiquitination and downregulation were investigated in the context of cognitive dysfunction, and TNFAIP1 was followed up due to its role in neuroinflammation. Whilst in my work, it wasn't followed up due to other E3 ligases being more promising candidates based on our criteria set out above.

3.5.4.2 Unutilised bioinformatics resources

Since this bioinformatics work was conceived, there has been a large increase in the bioinformatics tools available (Table 3.8) for this type of protein-protein interaction prediction. These techniques may have increased the number of candidate E3 ligases initially identified but carrying out filtering would still be required as set out in this chapter to rank which to test experimentally due to experimental restraints.

Table 3.8: Bioinformatic protein-protein interaction identification tools and databases.

Approach	Tools/Databases	Strength	Limitation
Sequence motif search	DEGRONOPEDIA, (Szulc et al., 2024) UbPred (Radivojac et al., 2010)	Fast and scalable	Misses noncanonical interactions
Protein-Protein Interaction Network Analysis	STRING, (Szklarczyk et al., 2023) BioGRID,(Oughtred et al., 2021) UbiBrowser (Wang et al., 2022)	Integrates large data sets	Low specificity
Signal-pathway integration	PhosphoSitePlus, (Hornbeck et al., 2012) Signor (Lo Surdo et al., 2023)	Captures conditional interactions	Needs contextspecific data
Machine learning	UbiBrowser2.0, UniBind(G. Wang et al., 2023) PEPPI (Bell et al., 2022)	High-throughput prediction	Data-dependent; risk of false positives

3.5.4.3 E3 ligases that would be included retrospectively

The initial bioinformatics carried as described in this chapter was carried out in late 2021. Since then, further articles have been published, protein-protein interaction databases updated and there have been advances in machine learning. This leads to the likelihood that more candidate SNAP-25-E3 ligase interactions may be predicted now. Repeating the Ubibrowser 1.0 and 2.0 searches in June 2025 did not reveal any new predictions, but neither version of the database has been updated since June 2020.

Repeating the PubMed searches in June 2025 produced two additional articles for the search term “SNAP-25 ligase” and six additional articles for the search term “SNAP-25 ubiquitination”. Including the 2023 paper describing an interaction between the E3 ligase TNFAIP1 and SNAP-25 (W. Wang et al., 2023) as discussed in Section 3.5.4.2.

In 2021, BioGrid returned 43 results with SNAP-25. As of June 2025, 58 verified SNAP-25 interactors were listed. Of these 15 newly added interactors, none were identified as having E3 ligase activity when compared to the Human E3 ligase database.

3.6 Summary

In summary, the bioinformatics approach set out in this chapter has provided evidence to investigate candidate E3 ligases. The evidence gathering highlights a virtue in bioinformatic platforming

experiments, but also highlights the need for systematic prioritisation with a view to experimental validation. This has provoked me to investigate candidates that operate within a neuronal context and provide evidence of potential synaptic function. On this basis, I have created a tabulation categorised by high, medium, and low priority candidates to facilitate experimental follow-up (Figure 3.10). This forms the basis for an approach in which the potential interaction and controlled ubiquitination of SNAP-25 by TRIM9, FBX07 and Parkin are investigated in the context of the pre-synapse (Figure 3.15 for potential subcellular localisation of an interaction between SNAP-25 and candidate E3 ligases).

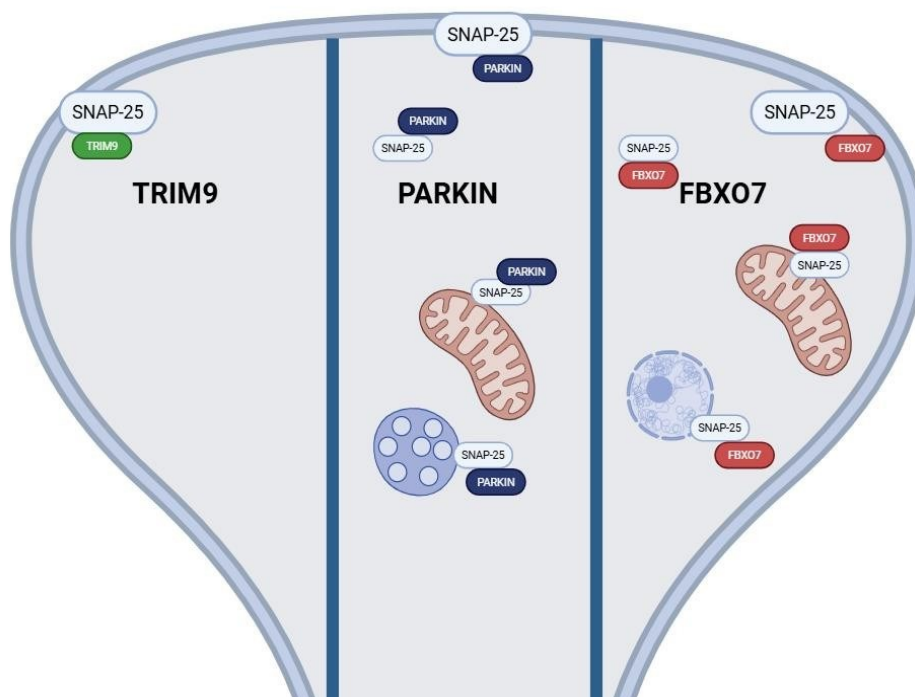


Figure 3.15: Schematic of potential SNAP-25- E3 ligase pre-synaptic interaction subcellular localisations. TRIM9 and SNAP-25 have been shown to localise to the plasma membrane. Parkin interacts with substrates at the plasma membrane, in the Cytoplasm, at the mitochondria and on endosomes. Whilst FBX07 interacts with substrates at the plasma membrane, in the Cytoplasm, at the mitochondria and at the nucleus.

Chapter 4 Investigating the validity of predicted SNAP-25-interacting E3 ligase candidates in cellular models HEK293FT and PC12

4.1 Introduction

This chapter details an experimental approach and the reagents required to assess whether the E3 ligases identified bioinformatically in the last chapter (Chapter 3) have the ability to interact with SNAP-25.

4.1.1 Detecting protein-protein interactions

Detecting protein-protein interactions is key to understanding the functions of proteins. Historically, both biochemical and genetic techniques, such as co-immunoprecipitation and yeast two-hybrid (Fields and Song, 1989), have been used to verify or identify novel protein-protein interactions (Rao et al., 2014). In addition, biochemically, both direct and proximity-dependent technologies, whereby proteins have to be within a certain radius of each other to raise a likely interaction, can be employed (Pfeiffer et al., 2022).

4.1.2 Proximity-dependent biotin identification (BioID) to identify protein-protein interactions

The proximity labelling technique BioID is based on the use of a Biotin ligase fused to the protein or protein domain of interest. BioID was initially developed in 2012 (Roux et al., 2012) and to date has been adapted for use *in vitro* and *in vivo* (Kim and Roux, 2016, Khan et al., 2018, Brudvig et al., 2018). Since its development, BioID has been adapted in a number of ways, including the development of smaller versions of BioID, split-BioID studies and versions which biotinylate more quickly (Kim et al., 2016, Schopp et al., 2017, Branon et al., 2018). BioID fusion proteins have been introduced into cells via transfection, viral infection and via CRISPR-Cas9 (Birendra Kc et al., 2017, Long, Brown and Sibley, 2018).

4.1.3 Development of BioID

BioID utilises the BirA *Escherichia coli* biotin protein ligase, which specifically biotinylates acetyl-CoA. The mutant BirA* has a point mutation (R118G), causing it to act as a promiscuous biotin ligase (Cronan, 2005). BioID functions under the principle that when biotin (10-50 μ M) is supplied to BirA*,

in the presence of ATP, BirA* binds to and activates the biotin, leading to the release of reactive biotinyl-AMP, which forms a covalent bond with primary amines on proximal lysine residues (Roux et al., 2012). This method assumes that if a recombinant protein with a fused BirA interacts, it will allow biotinylation of the partner protein. BioID can generate a history of potential candidate protein-protein interactions over a defined period under physiological conditions within living cells, unlike other methods that capture a snapshot of a single interaction (Sears et al., 2019). Targeting motifs attached to a particular protein can be used to target the BirA* to a particular subcellular compartment to localise the proximity labelling (Sears et al., 2019).

Proteins that become biotinylated by BioID can be classed into three categories: 1. Proteins that form direct stable or transient interactions with the protein of interest. 2. Proteins that interact indirectly with the protein of interest, or 3. Proteins that are within the proximal radius of the protein of interest but do not interact either directly or indirectly (Sears et al., 2019). The radius in which BioID can biotinylate is approximately 10-15 nm (Kim et al., 2014). As such, the use of robust controls is required to identify background proteins that have a high affinity for the promiscuous ligase but are not functionally relevant, or have a moderate affinity but are present in high abundance in the vicinity of the bait protein.

4.1.4 Limitations of BioID

BirA* has limitations, including the requirement for a Tag to bind the BioID ligase to the protein of interest, thereby modifying the protein. This can have consequences for protein localisation and function. Whilst BirA* is effectively expressed in bacterial systems, expression in mammalian cells can be challenging due to differences in codon usage, which can impact protein expression levels and the efficiency of biotinylation (Mechold et al., 2005). There is also the potential for non-specific biotinylation to take place with longer reaction times or under certain conditions (Chojnowski et al., 2018).

4.1.5 Using protein-protein interaction detection techniques in parallel

Due to the nature of E3-ligase-substrate interactions being weak (generally in the high nM to μ M affinity range) and transient (Pierce *et al.*, 2009, Varshavsky, 2012, Coyaud *et al.*, 2015), they may not be detected in traditional direct binding assays. An advantage of proximity-dependent assays is that they can identify weak (super micro) and transient interactions. Some studies that have used both direct binding and proximity labelling in parallel have been shown to have only limited overlap between identified interactors (Gallo et al., 2023).

4.2 Aims

This chapter aims to:

1. Generate and characterise the Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 and control reagents required to carry out BioID using SNAP-25 as bait,
2. Characterise PC12s as a neuronal-like model to carry out BioID, and
3. Carry out BioID using SNAP-25 as bait in PC12 to determine if candidate E3 ligases identified as candidates by bioinformatics are found to be proximal to SNAP-25.

This work is intended to use independent biochemical evidence to validate an interaction with SNAP-25. This is a primer for experiments with the long-term view of increasing our understanding of the mechanisms that underlie the ubiquitination of SNAP-25.

4.3 Methods

4.3.1 Designing experimental controls

Two control constructs were designed alongside the BioID-SNAP-25 (Figure 4.1, A). In addition to the fusion of BioID to SNAP-25, the constructs expressed an N-terminal Myc tag. To control for the Myc-BioID-SNAP-25, a Myc-BioID construct that generates cDNA that encodes a soluble cytoplasmic BioID harbouring an N-terminal Myc tag, lacking the SNAP-25 fusion, was used in identifying nonspecific interactions (Figure 4.1, B).

SNAP-25 is localised at the plasma membrane in a steady state (Vogel et al., 2000). Thus, I generated a myristoylated Myr-Myc-BioID construct that encodes a Myr-Myc-BioID with a plasma membrane localisation signal. This was designed to detect potentially abundant interactions in the same compartment as SNAP-25 (Figure 4.1, C).

When referring to all three constructs collectively, they will be referred to as Myc-BioID constructs. In addition to experiments performed after transfection of the constructs described above, I routinely ran a non-transfected control in which biotin was fed to the cells. This was used to identify proteins which have an intrinsic ability to incorporate biotin, affinity for the streptavidin or non-specific binding to the solid phase used in downstream affinity purifications.

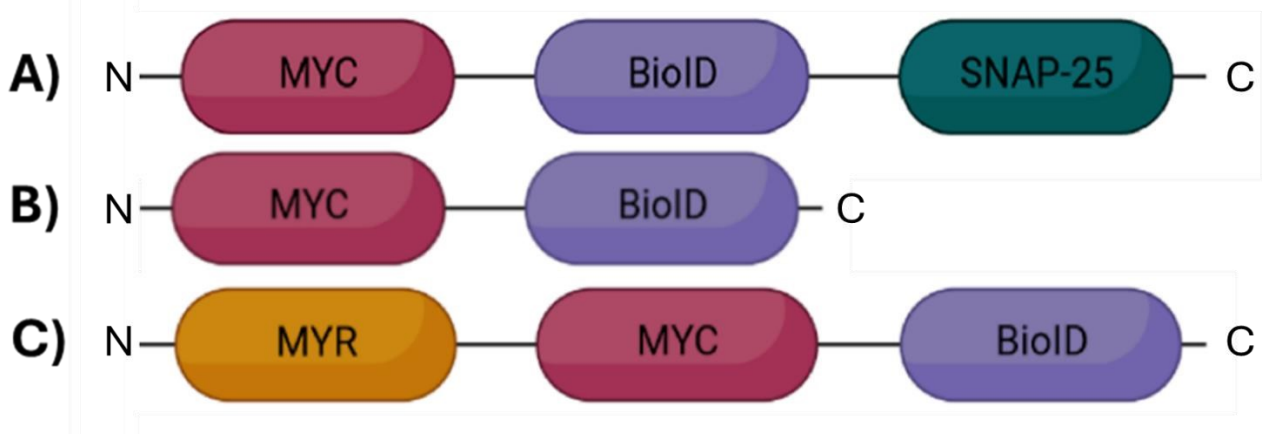


Figure 4.1: Schematic depicting the Myc-BioID constructs generated to carry out BioID. A) Myc-BioID-SNAP-25, B) Myc-BioID, C) Myr-Myc-BioID

4.4 Results

4.4.1 PC12 cells as a model for the identification of synaptic E3 ligases

PC12 cells are a good model for investigations of presynaptic sites and SNARE machinery (Chamberlain, Burgoyne and Gould, 2001, Salaün, Gould and Chamberlain, 2005). This has led to them being used to study the mechanisms of regulated release in the absence of full synaptic differentiation (Tao-Cheng *et al.*, 1995, Chen *et al.*, 2001, Zhou *et al.*, 2006).

4.4.2 Expression of key synaptic proteins across PC12 differentiation

PC12 cells become more neuronal after differentiation *in vitro* upon the addition of NGF and a reduction in serum causing cessation of division and the extension of neurites via TrkA, the PI3K/Akt and ras/src pathways leading to changes in cytoskeletal structure and the alteration of neuronal gene expression (Jeon *et al.*, 2010a). These protocols (Section 2.5.4) lead to the formation of neurite extensions and the emergence of transmitter release sites with increased expression and subcellular organisation of some synaptic proteins (Wiatrak *et al.*, 2020). PC12 cells exhibit neuron-like features, including electrical excitability, neurite outgrowth, presynaptic-like ultrastructure, and protein clustering of synaptic markers but do not form fully functional synapses and lack fully formed presynaptic organisation as such whilst endocytosis is observed in neurites, exocytosis is absent (Wiatrak *et al.*, 2020).

Chapter 4

To determine when the proteins whose functions are supported by CSP α are expressed, we investigated the expression of key proteins upon neuronal differentiation of PC12 cells. Cells were differentiated for five days, and western blotting was carried out on the proteins extracted each day (Figures 4.2 and 4.3).

All proteins analysed were detectable in the undifferentiated PC12 cells. CSP α showed a trend for an increase in expression over the differentiation period. In contrast, SNAP-25, PSD95, Syntaxin-1 and VAMP-2 showed relatively stable expression across the differentiation time course. For the E3 ligases tested, TRIM9 and FBX07 demonstrated stable expression across the differentiation time course. Whilst Parkin displayed a trend for an increase in expression across differentiation. However, this expression was variable across biological repeats. Actin and Tubulin remained consistent across differentiation within 2-fold changes. As illustrated in the representative blot, Tubulin displays a trend for a reduction in expression across differentiation (Figures 4.2 and 4.3).

In summary, the key synaptic proteins and the E3 ligases to be investigated in this study were detectable in the undifferentiated PC12 cells, and interestingly, CSP α displayed the greatest differential and a clear increase in expression with neuronal-like differentiation.

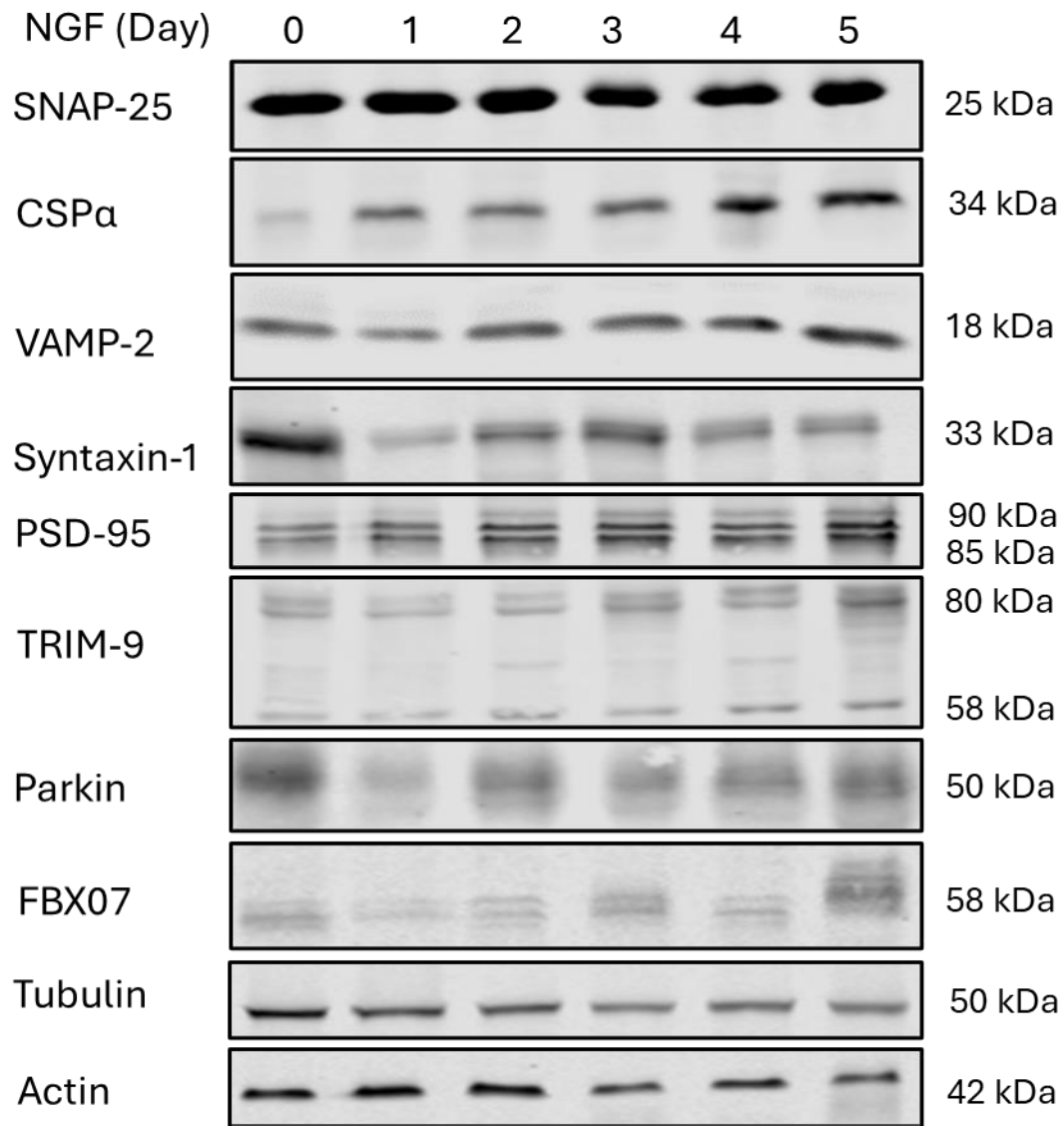
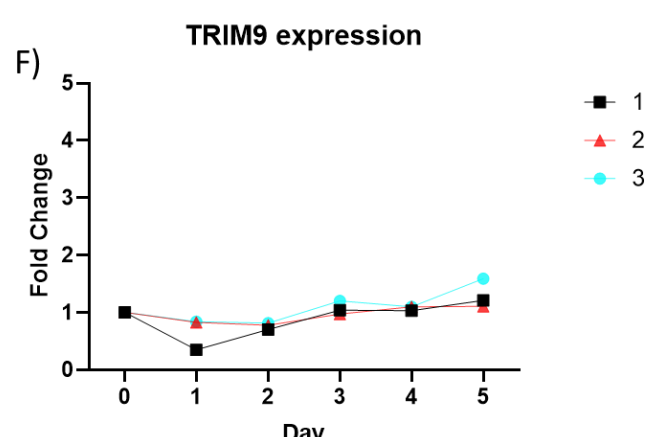
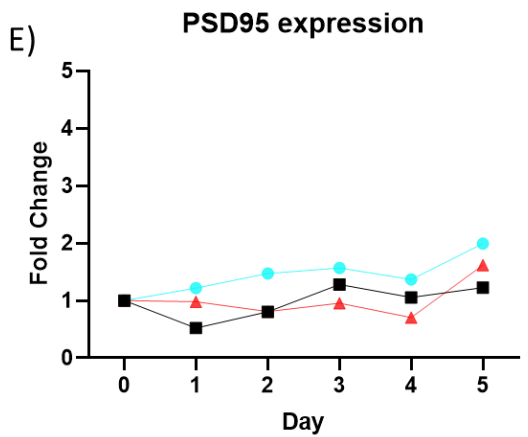
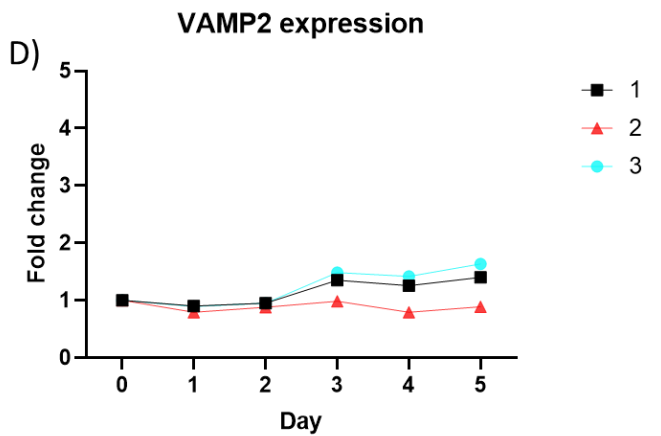
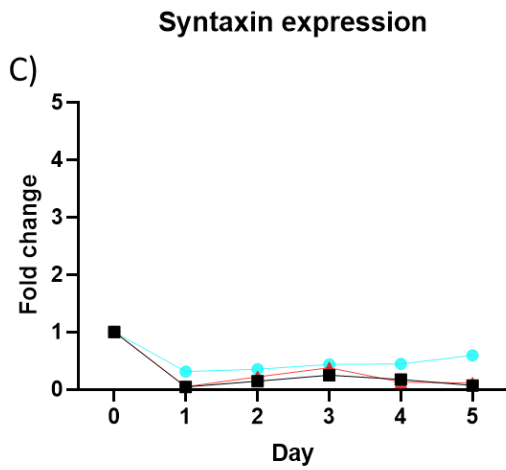
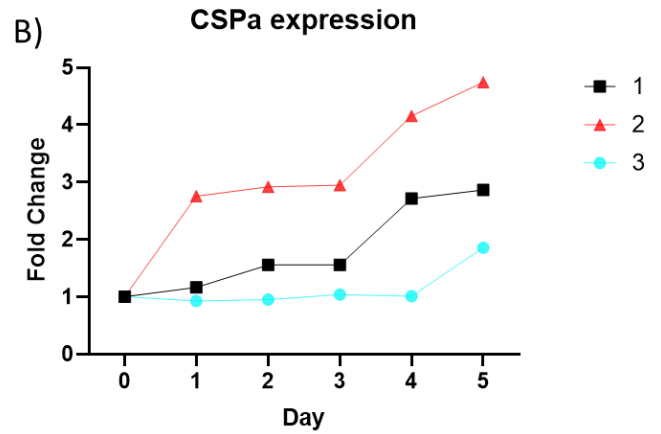
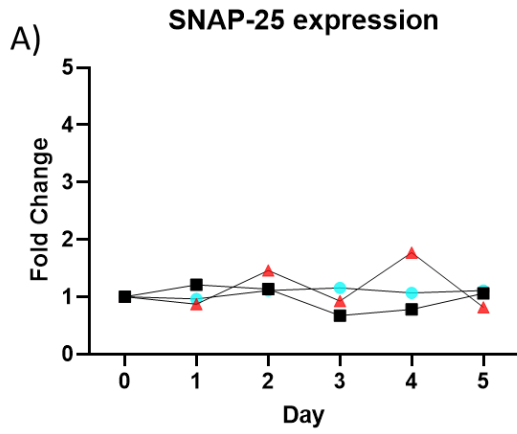


Figure 4.2: Relative Expression of key synaptic proteins and E3 ligases across NGF-induced PC12 differentiation.

PC12 cells were differentiated with NGF (50 ng/ml), and samples were lysed at the indicated time points up to Day 5. 10 μ g of lysate protein was resolved by SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting of the indicated proteins was carried out, n = 3 for technical repeats from a clonal line.



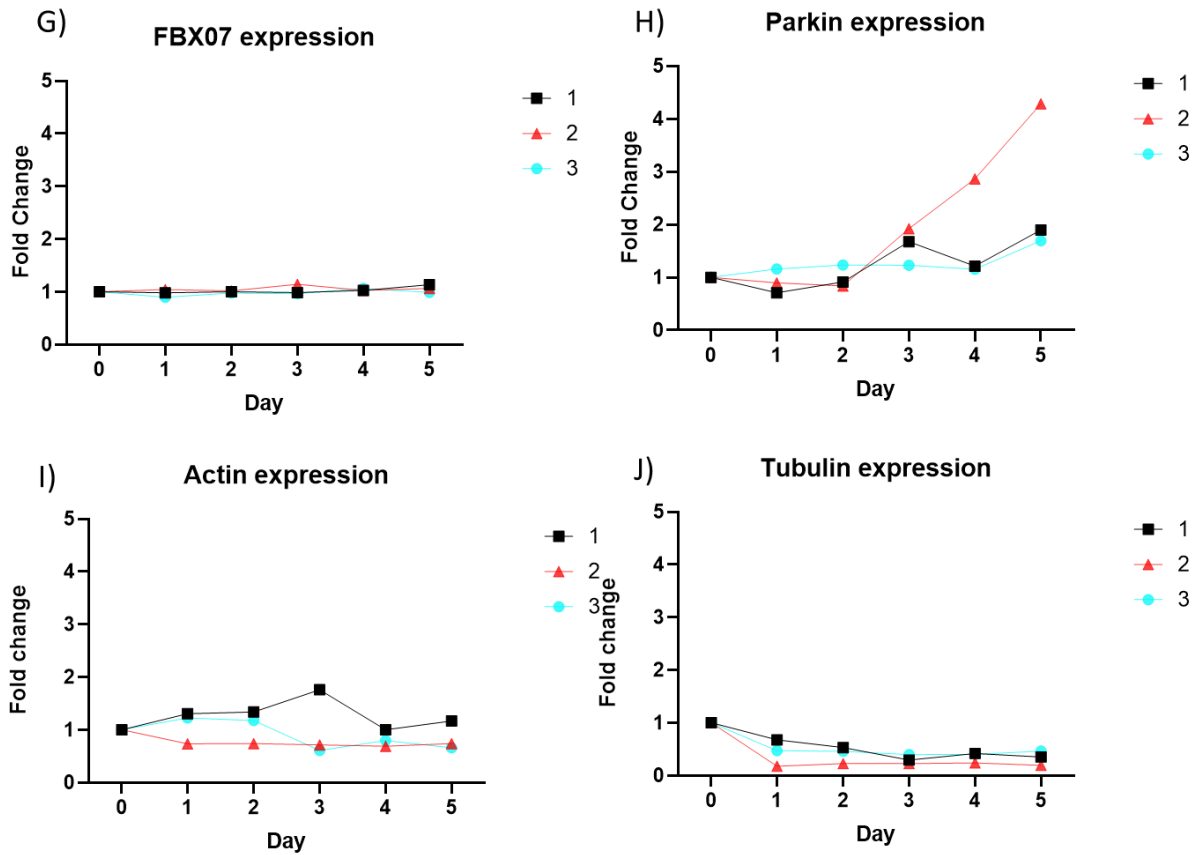


Figure 4.3: Quantification of selected protein expression across NGF-induced differentiation in PC12 cells.

Relative expression of the indicated immunolabelled protein extracted from PC12 cells at the indicated times across NGF differentiation (50 ng/ml). Immunolabeling Intensity for the protein bands were normalised to protein loading controls and plotted as a comparison based on the fold change to Day 0. N=3, where 1-3 corresponds to individual experimental repeats.

4.4.3 Confirmation of expression of BioID Constructs in HEK293FT

The Myc-BioID constructs were transfected into HEK293FT, which were then tested for their relative expression, localisation and associated biotin ligase activity. Initial experiments were carried out in HEK293FT cells due to their reported higher rates of transfection than PC12 cells.

Both transfected and untransfected cells were lysed 24 hours post-transfection. The cell lysates were resolved by SDS-PAGE, then subjected to Western blotting, and immunolabeled with a Myc antibody to detect the expression of the protein encoded by each construct (Figure 4.4). Untransfected lysates were run beside lysates from cells that had been transfected with each of

the constructs; no Myc immunoreactivity was present in the lysates from the untransfected cells.

The expression of Myc-BioID- SNAP-25 was investigated by probing for the immunoreactivity with a SNAP-25 antibody (K. Kim et al., 2021). This showed selective immunoreactivity at 25 kDa in both the untransfected lysate and lysate from cells transfected with Myc-BioID-SNAP-25, with a predicted additional immunoreactivity at 60 kDa. This immunoreactivity is explained by the endogenous SNAP-25 and the transfected Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 construct. This contradicts previous literature that states that SNAP-25 is not detectable by western blot in HEK293 cells (Scott et al., 2003).

In cells transfected with Myc-BioID-SNAP-25, probing for Myc immunoreactivity resolved a single major band at 60 kDa. In the case of Myc-BioID at 32 kDa and Myr-Myc-BioID at 35 kDa (Figure 4.4).

The absence of immunoreactivity of Myc in the untransfected cell lysate and the presence at the correct molecular weight for each construct confirmed the expression of Myc-BioID, MyrMyc-BioID and Myc-BioID-SNAP-25.

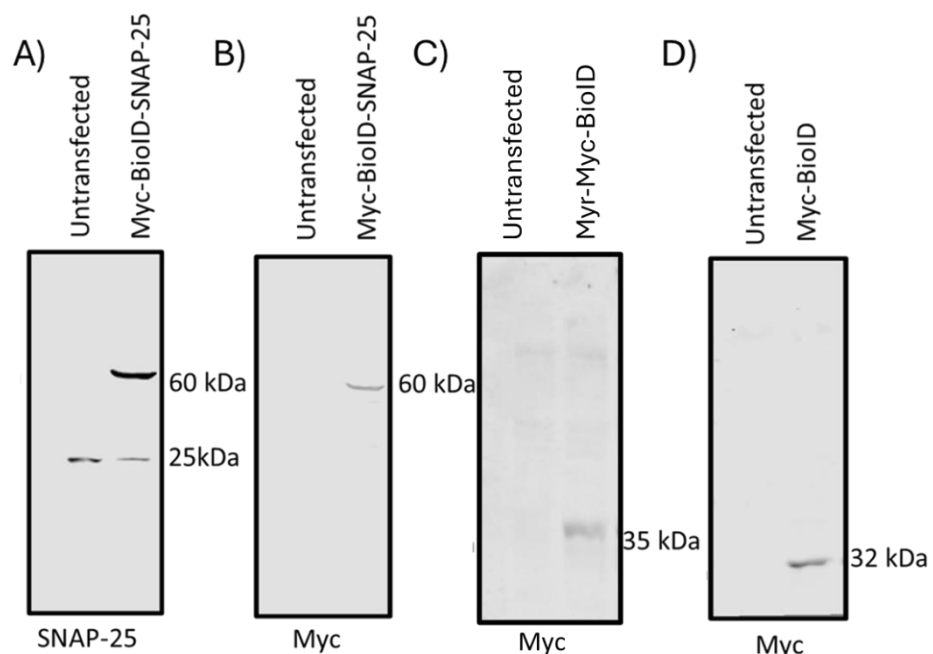


Figure 4.4: Recombinant expression of the Myc-BioID constructs in HEK293FT cells.

Representative image of 3 independent transfections of HEK293FT cells transfected with MycBioID constructs. 10 μ g of each lysate was resolved by SDS-PAGE and immunoblotted for the indicated proteins with Myc or SNAP-25, N=3.

4.4.4 Localisation of recombinantly expressed BioID constructs in HEK293FT cells

Transfection followed by immunofluorescent detection of Myc immunoreactivity staining was used to investigate the subcellular location of Myc-BioID, Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 and Myr-MycBioID proteins expressed in HEK293FT cells. Myc was used to detect the expression of the transfected constructs, Wheat Germ Agglutinin (WGA) was used to stain glycoproteins at the plasma membrane, and Hoechst was used as a nuclear stain (Figure 4.5).

Immunoreactivity of the protein encoded by the Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 construct was selectively found at the plasma membrane in the HEK293FT cells (Figure 4.5). Golgi staining with GM130 was also carried out to determine if there was a pool of the construct detectable in the Golgi, where SNAP-25 is palmitoylated (Greaves et al., 2010). Subsequent confocal microscope analysis did not resolve discernible intracellular co-localisation staining of SNAP-25 and GM130 at the Golgi in the transfected HEK293FT cells (Data not shown). This indicates that at steady state, SNAP-25 is localised at the plasma membrane.

The protein encoded by the Myr-Myc-BioID control localised to the plasma membrane. The immunoreactivity in the HEK293FT cells indicated it was present most intensely across the whole plasma membrane (Figure 4.5). The protein encoded by the Myc-BioID construct displayed immunoreactivity filling the cytoplasm of the cell, consistent with the expression of a soluble cytoplasmic protein (Figure 4.5).

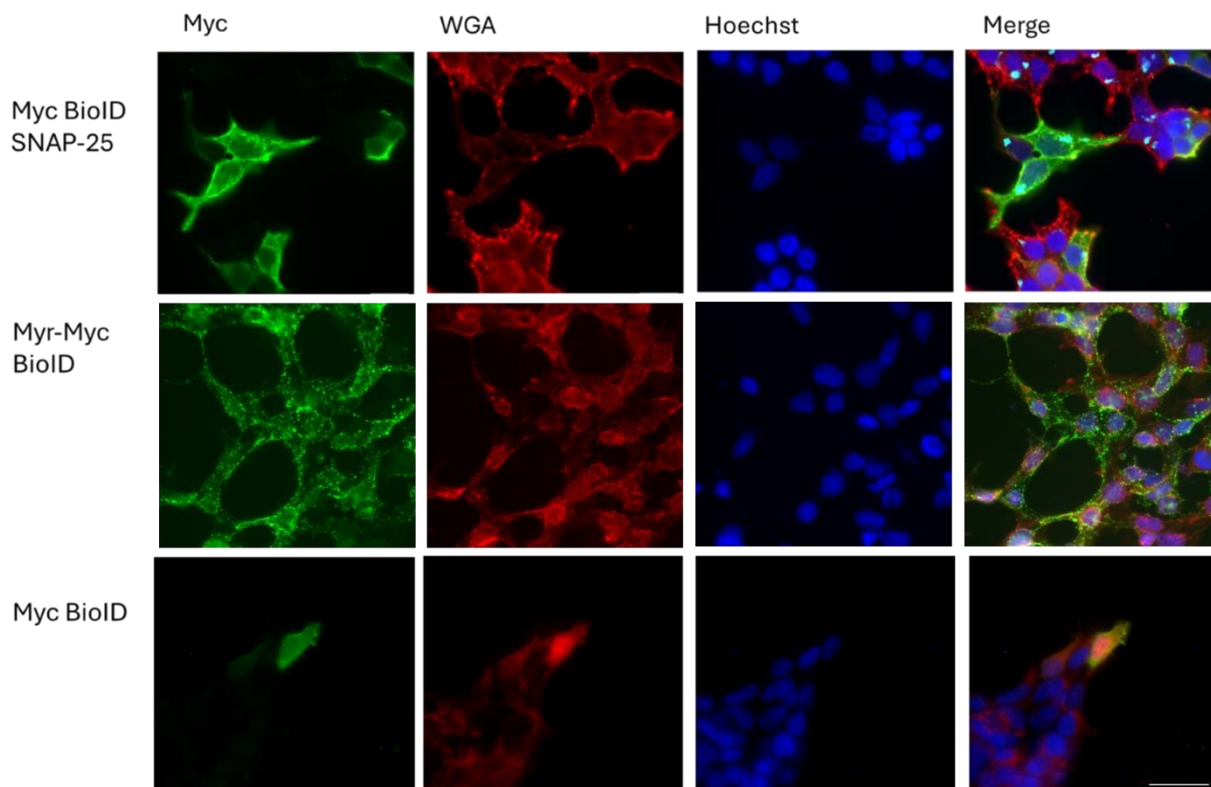


Figure 4.5: Immunofluorescence of HEK293 FT cells transfected with Myc-BioID- SNAP-25 Myc-BioID and Myr-Myc-BioID constructs.

Cells were incubated with Wheat Germ Agglutinin (WGA) (red channel), then fixed, permeabilised and probed for Myc immunoreactivity (green channel) and nuclear staining with Hoechst (blue channel). Scale bar 50 μ M.

4.4.5 Localisation of recombinantly expressed Myc-BioID constructs in PC12 cells

Lipofectamine-based transfection of PC12s routinely generates below 20-25% transfection efficiency (Figure 4.6, Lee et al., 2008). Myc immunostaining identified both a plasma membrane and potentially a peri-nuclear localisation of proteins encoded by each of the three Myc-BioID constructs. Whilst the Myc construct filled the cell there was localisation for the other two constructs, but this was not as plasma membrane defined as in the HEK293FT cells (Figure 4.5)..

Localisation of the SNAP-25 constructs at the plasma membrane suggests that the fusion of SNAP-25 to BioID does not disrupt the biosynthesis and the targeting of SNAP-25. This implies the expressed construct is palmitoylated, situated at the plasma membrane and correctly localised, leaving it well-placed to probe for endogenous protein-protein interactions. Whilst the perinuclear expression could be at the ER or the Golgi, which are sites of SNAP-25 maturation and transport, which could allow for the identification of interactions across SNAP-25's life course.

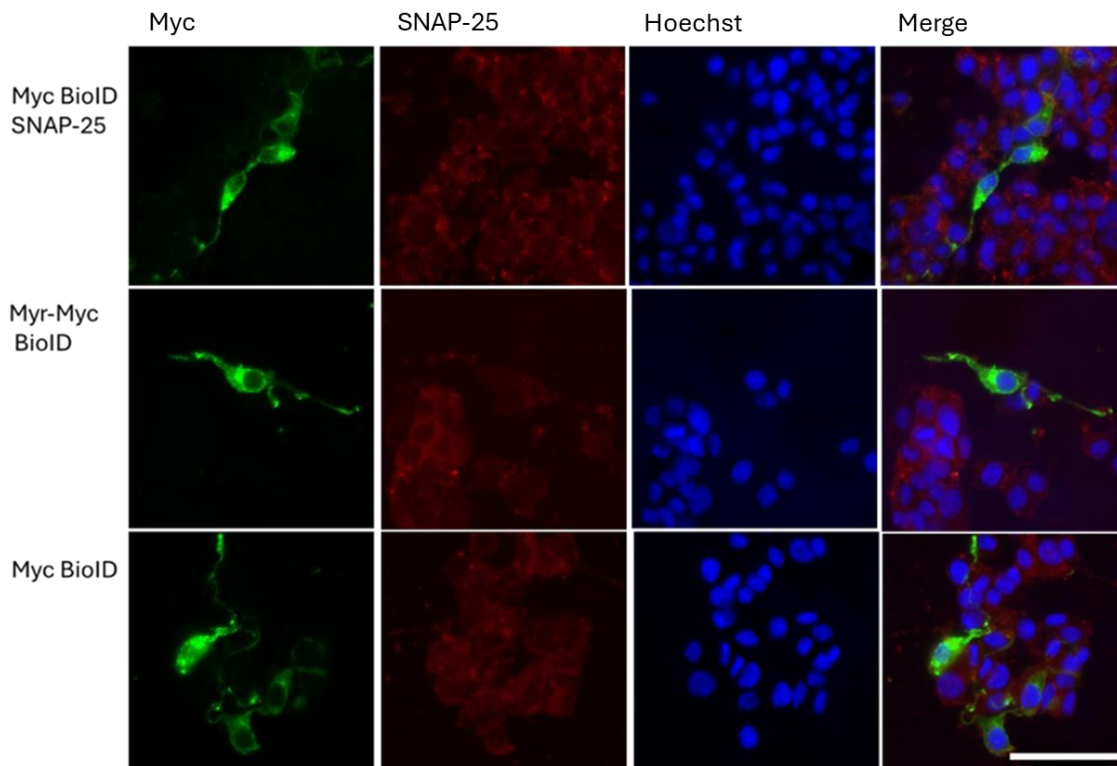


Figure 4.6: Immunolocalisation of Myc-BioID fusion constructs in PC12 cells.

Cells were transfected with Myc-BioID-SNAP, Myr-Myc-BioID and Myc-BioID constructs as indicated. Myc (green channel) SNAP-25 (red channel) immunoreactivity, and Hoechst staining are displayed as indicated in the (blue channel). The overlay in the merge image postprocessing. Scale bar 50 μ M.

4.4.6 Biotinylation by Myc-BioID constructs in HEK293FT cells.

HEK293FT cells were transfected with the Myc-BioID-SNAP-25, Myr-Myc-BioID and Myc-BioID constructs and supplemented with Biotin (50 μ M). 24 hours post-transfection, the cells were fixed and probed for Myc immunoreactivity, cellular streptavidin was labelled and Hoechst was used to stain nuclei. The expression of the proteins generated by each of the three constructs was identified

by Myc immunoreactivity in the expected locations (green channel, Figure 4.7). Importantly, the cells positive for Myc were also positive for streptavidin (purple channel, Figure 4.7) reactivity. This colocalization of the Myc-tagged biotin ligases and the biotinylated proteins decorated by streptavidin indicates cellular proximity labelling (Figure 4.7).

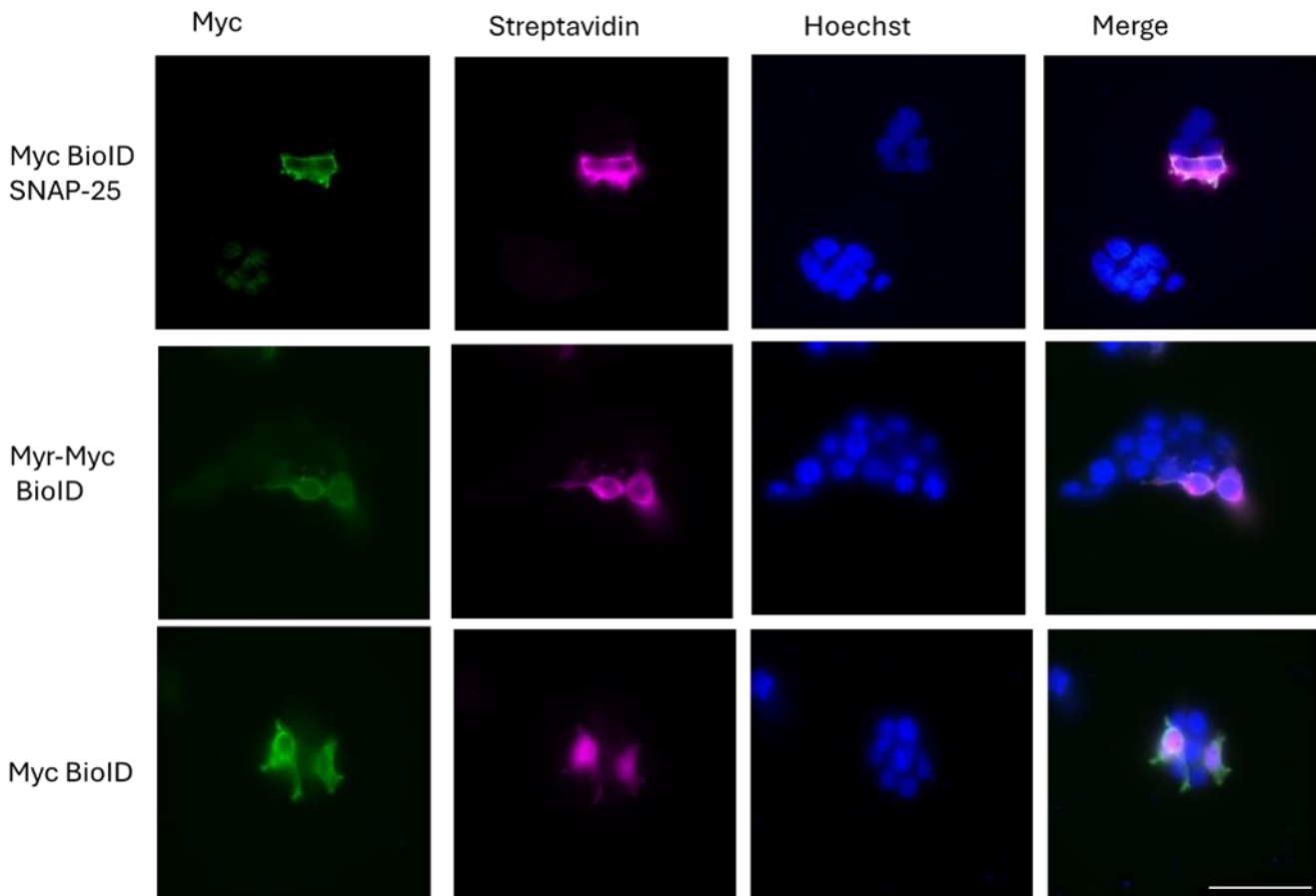


Figure 4.7: Immunocytochemical localisation of BioID-generated biotinylation in cells transfected with Myc-tagged BioID constructs.

Myc-BioID-SNAP-25, Myc-BioID and Myr-Myc-BioID constructs were transfected into HEK293FT cells and supplemented with biotin (50 μ m). After 24 hrs, cellular biotinylation was detected by secondary incubation with fluorescent streptavidin Alexa 555 (purple channel). Cells were probed for Myc immunoreactivity (green channel), and Hoechst (blue channel). Scale bar 50 μ M, N =3.

In addition, to immunofluorescent staining, an untransfected culture and cultures transfected with the Myc-BioID constructs incubated with or without biotin were lysed and resolved by

SDSPAGE. These resolved samples were Coomassie-stained to reveal the total protein extracted from each well was indistinguishable (Appendix Figure B.4).

Western blotting of the same lysates, followed by incubation with HRP-coupled streptavidin was used in parallel to investigate the cellular biotinylation in the absence and presence of exogenous biotin in cells expressing the distinct constructs. Streptavidin-labelled biotin revealed that in the untransfected cells, there was biotinylation of four major proteins at 220 kDa, 130 kDa, and two in the region of 70 kDa. With each of the constructs, transfected cells exhibited additional discrete biotin reactivity at the molecular weight corresponding to the migration of the corresponding recombinant construct. Lastly, within construct-transfected cultures, additional biotinylation was evident in the biotin-fed cultures in comparison to the cultures which just had the biotin available in the media (See Appendix B.4)

4.4.7 Optimisation of biotinylation timings

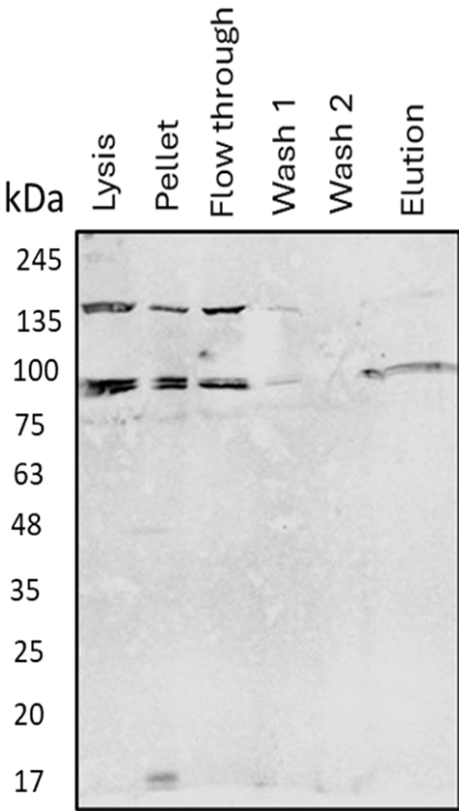
Before conducting biochemical investigation with the Myc-BioID constructs, I investigated optimised experimental conditions by varying the biotin incubation times after the Myc-BioID constructs were transfected into HEK293FT cells. The cells were transfected with each of the constructs and after 24 hours, the cultures were incubated with biotin (50 μ M) and lysed 16, 18 or 24 hours later (Roux et al.,2012). There was no clear difference in the levels of cellular biotinylation or the emergence of additional immunoreactivity between 16, 18 and 24 hours. As such, cells were subsequently incubated with biotin for 16 hours (Appendix B.3).

4.4.8 Pull down in HEK293FT cells as a proof of concept.

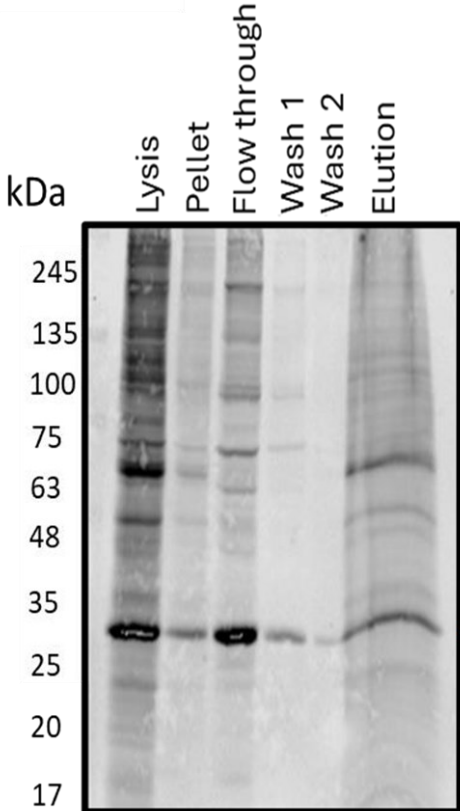
A streptavidin pull-down from lysates generated from HEK293FT cells, as described above, was carried out. This was done to determine if biotinylated proteins could be isolated using the protocol outlined in Section 2.10.

HEK293FT cells transfected with the Myc-BioID constructs and an untransfected control were incubated with Biotin (50 μ M), 16 hrs later, these cultures were lysed. After lysis, the samples were centrifuged. The detergent-solubilised cleared lysates were incubated with streptavidin beads, washed and eluted. The eluted proteins were resolved by SDS-PAGE and probed with HRP-coupled streptavidin (Figure 4.8).

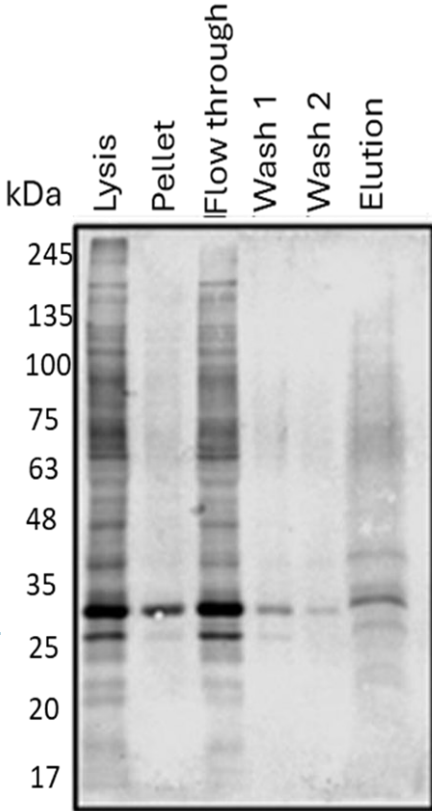
Untransfected



Myc BioID



Myr- Myc BioID



Myc BioID SNAP-25

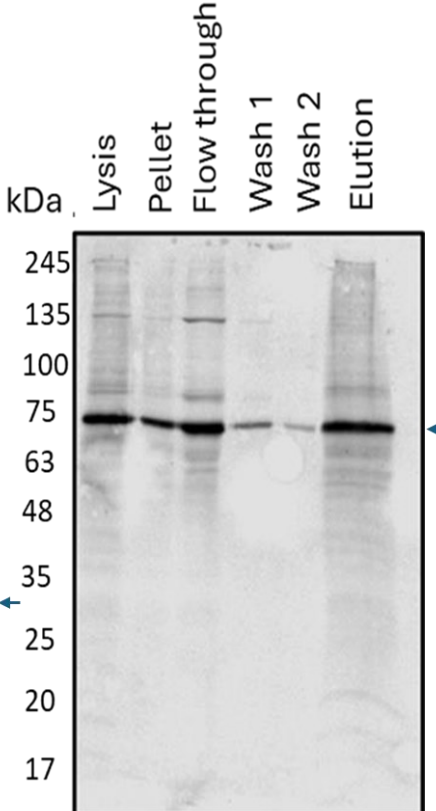


Figure 4.8: Streptavidin pull-down of Myc BioID constructs and biotinylated proteins in HEK293FT cells, Streptavidin pull-down in HEK293FT cells, lysates from untransfected cells, and cells transfected with Myc-BioID, Myr-Myc-BioID or Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 were resolved on SDS-PAGE gels and labelled with HRP-coupled streptavidin, with the expected molecular weight of each construct highlighted with a blue arrow N=1.

The pellet fraction clearly shows that the biotinylated proteins are largely soluble and thus available to be loaded onto the streptavidin beads (see Figure 4.8 Lysis and pellet for each).

In the untransfected cells, there was biotinylation of 4 major proteins at 220 kDa, 130 kDa and two bands in the region of 70 kDa, in the lysis, pellet, flowthrough, wash 1 and the elution. This reflects biotin's appearance within abundant mammalian carboxylases: CoA carboxylase (220 kDa), Pyruvate carboxylase (130 kDa), 3-methylcrotonyl CoA Carboxylase (75 kDa) and Propionyl CoA Carboxylase (72 kDa) (Figure 4.8, Untransfected). Accordingly, the four mammalian carboxylases are present in all the Myc-BioID-transfected cultures (Figure 4.8).

In comparison to the untransfected sample, each of the constructs generates an additional discrete major biotin-dependent reactivity across the sample fractions. The size of which corresponded to the molecular weight of each of the constructs: Myc-BioID (30 kDa), Myr-MycBioID (32 kDa) and Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 (60 kDa).

A comparison of the reactivity associated with the lysis and flow-through fraction for each of the transfections shows that none of the potential biotin-reacted proteins are quantitatively removed. The amount of protein loaded onto the beads (approx. 100-600 µg total with likely a low percentage of total protein being proximal to the biotin ligases) is within the beads' capacity of ~55µg biotinylated rabbit IgG/mg of beads.

Finally, the eluted fraction that follows two washes of the beads shows a specific association of a range of biotinylated proteins for each of the Myc-BioID constructs. The Intensity indicates that the Myc-BioID construct has the largest associated repertoire of protein interactions. Whilst there is a distinct labelling and pull-down for Myr-Myc-BioID and Myc-BioID-SNAP-25, suggesting that the distinct constructs have selective reactivity and show distinct patterns of proximity labelling (Figure 4.8).

Upon confirming that the streptavidin pull-down methodology was sufficient in extracting biotinylated proteins, the samples were probed for TRIM9 by tracking its immunoreactivity through the experimental extracts described above. The Lysate and elution fractions from untransfected cells, and cells transfected with Myc-BioID, Myr-Myc-BioID and Myc-BioIDSNAP-25 were resolved by SDS-PAGE and probed with a TRIM9 antibody. This analysis identified TRIM-9 immunoreactivity in the cell lysate fraction for each transfection, but there was no retention and/or elution in any of the conditions (Appendix B.5). This indicates that the recombinantly expressed SNAP-25 does not

support a protein interaction detected by proximity labelling with the TRIM-9 endogenously expressed HEK293FT cells.

4.4.9 BioID pull-downs in PC12 cells using Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 as bait

Setting up and carrying out the streptavidin pull-down in HEK293FT cells allowed for proof of concept that the biotinylation method carried out here allowed for specific labelling and extraction of biotinylated protein. Before the protocol was adapted for use in the PC12 cells, which contain more of the protein machinery which is likely to interact with SNAP-25.

PC12 cells were plated in 10 cm dishes, untransfected or populations transfected with Myc-BioID-SNAP-25, Myr-Myc-BioID or Myc-BioID, were compared after incubation with biotin (Section 2.7.11). The cell lysates were homogenised, and the soluble supernatants were loaded onto the streptavidin beads (Section 2.7.11).

After incubation with the streptavidin beads, the flow-through was removed, and the beads were washed. Samples were eluted by boiling in SDS-PAGE sample loading buffer (Method section 2.7.5).

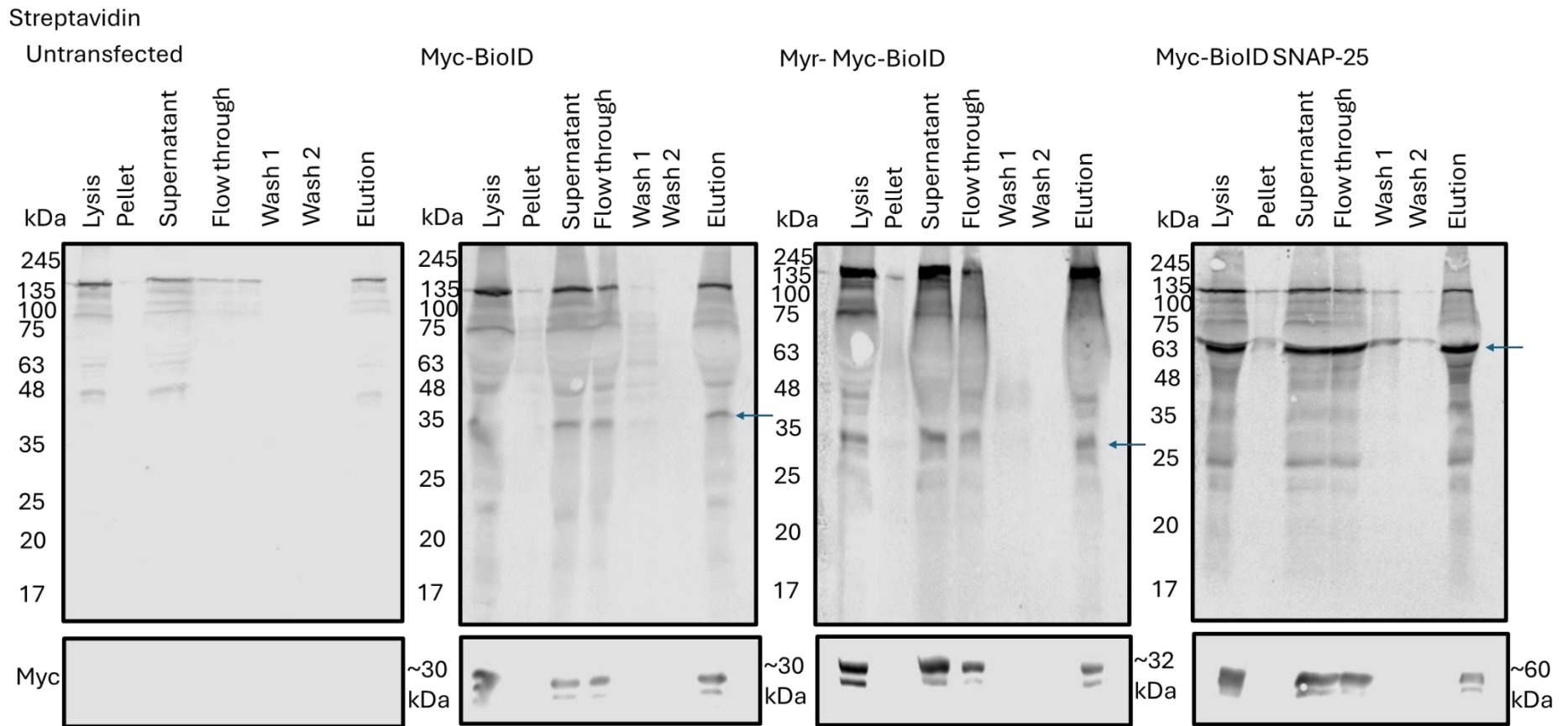


Figure 4.9: Streptavidin pull-down of Myc BioID constructs and biotinylated proteins in PC12 cells

Streptavidin pull-down in PC12 cells: Untransfected cells, cells transfected with Myc-BioID, Myr-Myc-BioID or Myc-BioID-SNAP-25, were incubated with biotin and lysed 16 hours later. Samples were resolved by SDS-PAGE and labelled with HRP-coupled streptavidin and Myc. N=1.

Probing for streptavidin reactivity identified biotinylated proteins present in the lysate, supernatant, flow-through and eluate of each condition, with some present in the washes of some of the conditions (Figure 4.10).

The presence of four bands were observed in the untransfected and Myc-BioID construct transfected samples corresponding to known mammalian biotinylated proteins (As described in section 4.4.8). In addition, there was a large smear in the elution with an additional differential pattern in reactive proteins identified and purified from the distinct transfected cells.

Immunoreactivity for Myc was investigated and it showed that the constructs themselves were biotinylated and pulled down. This was shown by the presence of immunoreactivity at ~30 kDa for Myc-BioID, 32 kDa for Myr-Myc-BioID and at ~60 kDa for Myc-BioID-SNAP-25. (Figure 4.10).

4.4.10 Identification of proximity between SNAP-25 and established binding partners

The PC12 cells were transfected with Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 and the BioID pull-down protocol was carried out. The samples were resolved on SDS-PAGE gels and then immunolabeled with SNAP-25, Myc, VAMP-2 and Syntaxin. Immunoreactivity for all four proteins was detected in the cell lysis, supernatant, flow-through and the elute (Figure 4.10).

The presence of immunoreactivity in the lysate confirmed the expression of each protein, and the Myc ~60 kDa immunoreactivity confirmed that the cells were transfected. In the case of Syntaxin, VAMP-2 and Myc, the appearance of some immunoreactivity in the pellet was surprising and suggested incomplete solubilization of these samples. However, the majority of the immunoreactivity was in the supernatant, allowing purification of these proximity labelled proteins. In all cases, there was immunoreactivity in the elution fraction for all proteins investigated. This suggests proximity between the Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 construct and endogenous SNAP-25, VAMP-2 and Syntaxin (Figure 4.10). The proximity between the Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 construct and endogenous SNAP-25 is suggestive of the formation of SNAP-25 homodimers of which there is not previous literature evidence of. However, if SNAP-25 does form homodimers this may lead to competition between this formation and the formation of the SNAP-25-Syntaxin-1 dimer which is a critical step in the assembly of SNARE complex formation.

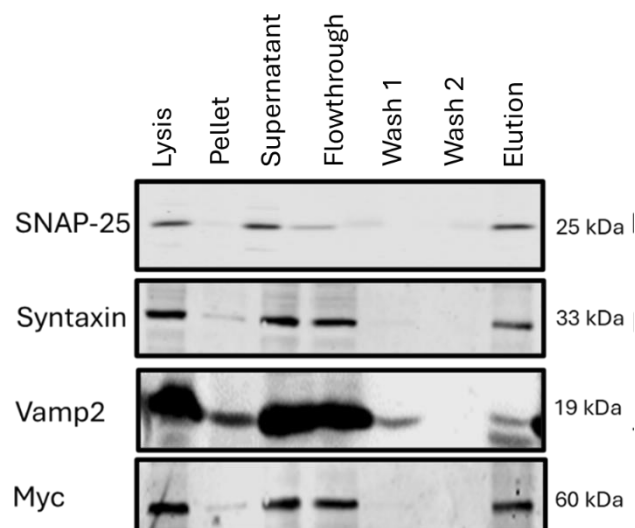


Figure 4.10: Known SNAP-25 interacting proteins are BioID proximity-labelled in PC12 cells using Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 as bait.

Lysates from PC12 cells transfected with Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 and pulled down with streptavidin beads and resolved by SDS-PAGE before being labelled with antibodies for SNAP25, Syntaxin, Vamp-2, and Myc, N=1.

4.4.11 Investigation candidate E3 ligases interaction with SNAP-25 by proximity labelling.

After known SNAP-25 binding partners were detected using BioID labelling with the Myc-BioIDSNAP-25 construct in the PC12 cells. This work was extended by investigating the three candidate E3 ligases, FBXO7, Trim9 and Parkin (Identified in Chapter 3).

FBXO7, Parkin and TRIM9 were extracted from PC12 cells transfected with Myc-BioID-SNAP-25, and immunoreactivity revealed they were all largely soluble (indicated by the expression in the lysis fractions, Figure 4.11). All were also present in the supernatant and the flow-through. TRIM9 and FBXO7 were not present in the elution, indicating no evidence for successful biotin proximity labelling. In contrast, tracking Parkin immunoreactivity identified that it is clearly found in the elution fraction. Thus, this suggests that Parkin can be proximity labelled by the Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 (Figure 4.11).

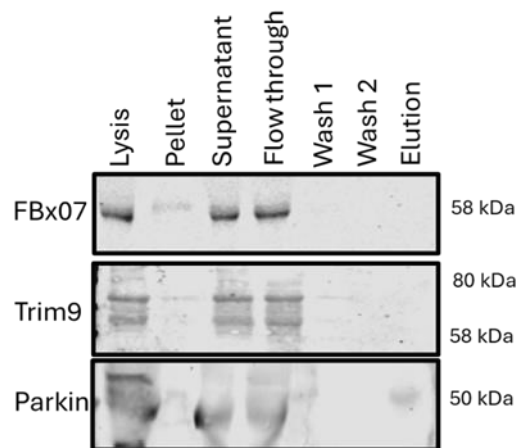


Figure 4.11: The E3 ligase Parkin shows BioID proximity-dependent labelling in PC12 cells transfected with Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 as bait.

Lysates from PC12 cells transfected with Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 and incubated with biotin were lysed and incubated with streptavidin beads. Affinity-purified peptides were resolved by SDS-PAGE before being labelled with fluorophore-conjugated antibodies to label FBXO7, Trim9 and Parkin, N=3.

4.4.12 Investigation into the specificity of Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 proximity labelling of Parkin

To ensure that the immunoreactivity of Parkin (and known SNAP-25 interactor, Syntaxin) in the elute for the Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 transfected PC12 cells was selective, the BioID pull-down protocol was carried out on lysates from untransfected cells and cells transfected with MycBioID and Myr-Myc-BioID constructs.

Syntaxin and Parkin are present in the lysate of each of the samples described above but are only present in the elution of the Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 cells. This supports the selectivity of interaction of SNAP-25 with Parkin (Figure 4.12, A).

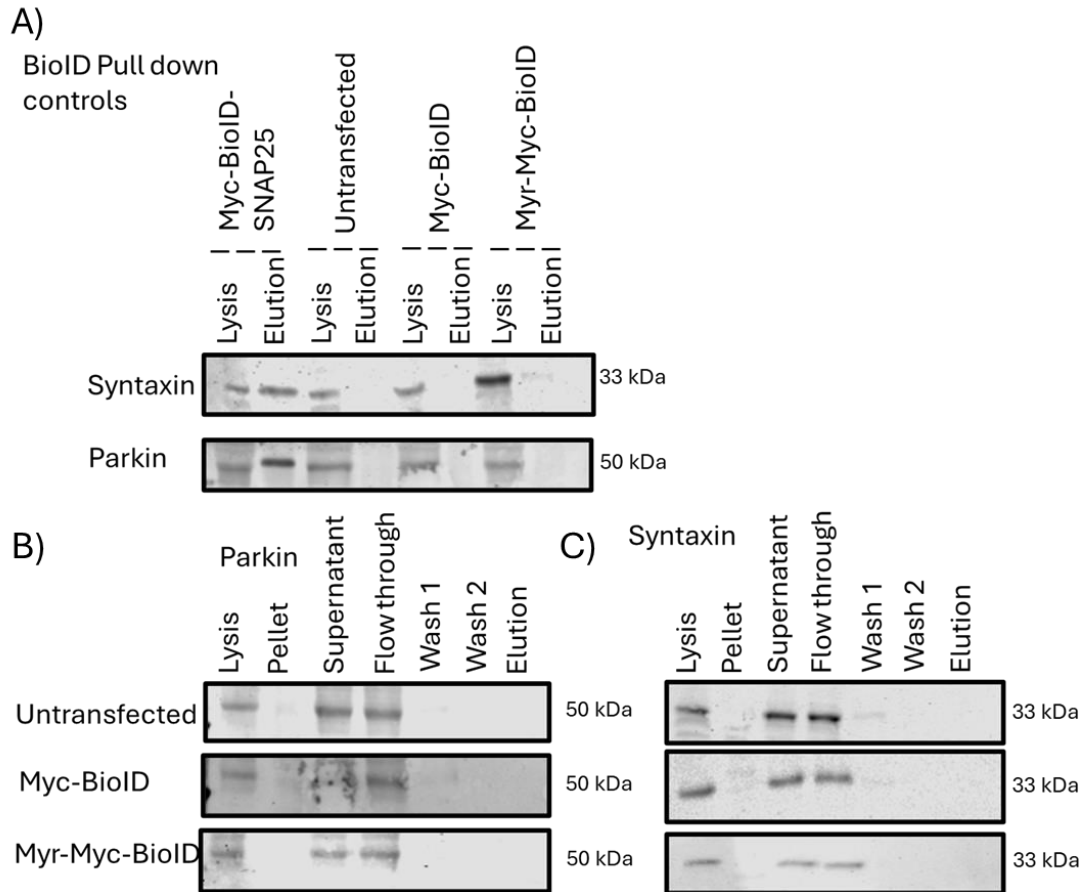


Figure 4.12: Syntaxin and Parkin are selectively Biotinylated by Myc BioID-SNAP-25

Lysates taken from either untransfected PC12 or cells transfected with Myc-BioID or Myr-MycBioID were incubated with streptavidin beads, then resolved by SDS-PAGE and labelled with antibodies for Syntaxin and Parkin, to identify if there was non-specific proximity labelling with the control Myc-BioID constructs, N=2.

4.4.13 BioID proximity labelling of HA Wildtype and mutant C431S Parkin

Having identified proximity labelling between endogenous Parkin and Myc-BioID-SNAP-25, I investigated whether Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 would biotinylate a transfected HA-Parkin construct. In addition, I compared this with a HA-Parkin C413S E3 ligase-deficient construct, which has been classified as an E3 ligase dead mutant due to the lack of ability to be recruited to the mitochondria and ubiquitinate substrates (Lazarou *et al.*, 2013a, Iguchi *et al.*, 2013).

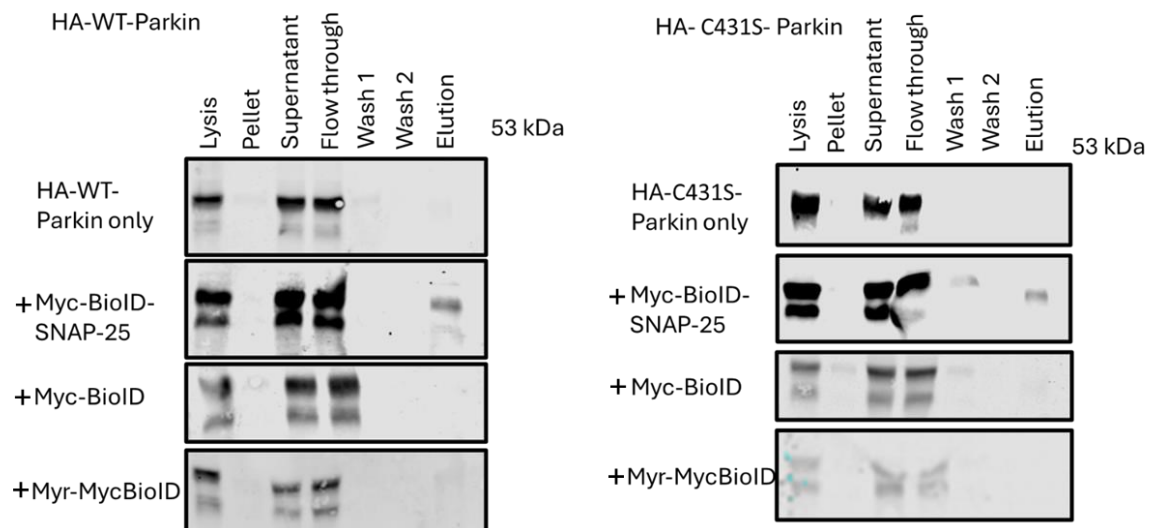


Figure 4.13: Parkin is selectively pulled down by Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 in an E3 ligase independent manner. Wild-type and E3 ligase-deficient Parkin are biotinylated and pulled down by Myc-BioID-SNAP-25. HA-wildtype and HA-C431S Parkin constructs were transfected into HEK293 FT cells either individually or in combination with Myc-BioID-SNAP-25, Myc-BioID or Myr-Myc-BioID in the presence of biotin, before being lysed and incubated with streptavidin beads. The proteins eluted from the beads were resolved by SDS-PAGE and labelled with a Parkin antibody, N=2.

Both the HA-WT Parkin and the HA-C431S Parkin were proximity biotinylated by the Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 construct. This is shown by the presence of Parkin (Figure 4.13) and HA-tagged (Data not shown) immunoreactivity in the elution fractions. No immunoreactivity was present in the elution fractions in the untransfected, Myc-BioID or Myr-Myc-BioID control conditions (Figure 4.13). This is suggestive of selective SNAP-25 proximity and the potential of an interaction between Parkin and SNAP-25, which is independent of Parkin's E3 ligase activity.

4.4.14 Myc Pulldowns to identify direct interaction of Myc BioID SNAP-25

Alongside the BioID pulldowns, I investigated the candidate SNAP-25-E3 ligase interactions using the encoded Myc-tag on the Myc-BioID constructs. Anti-c-Myc Magnetic Beads were used to immunoprecipitate the Myc-tagged proteins that can be identified in the Myc-BioID transfections. This provided an opportunity to investigate whether this distinct mode of protein interaction assay could evidence the interaction of SNAP-25 to probe the E3 ligases tested for proximity to SNAP-25

Initially, immunoprecipitation lysates from cells transfected with the Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 construct were resolved by SDS-PAGE and immunolabeled with Myc (Figure 4.14). Myc immunoreactivity was

present in the cell lysis, supernatant flow-through and elution fractions. This showed that the Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 construct was expressed and bound to the Myc beads.

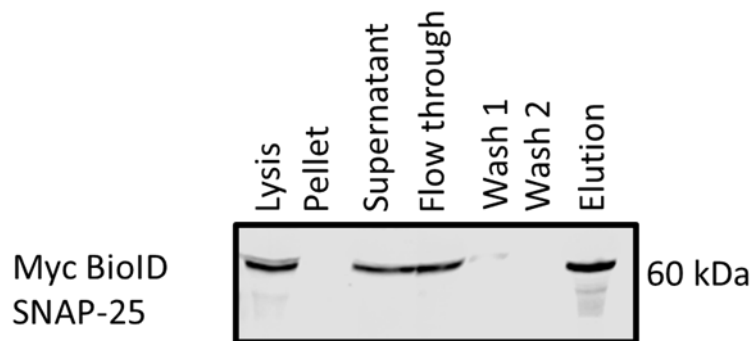


Figure 4.14: Immunoprecipitation of the Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 construct in PC12 cells

Myc pull-down in PC12 cells transfected with Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 and subjected to the Myc immunoprecipitation before samples were resolved by SDS-PAGE and labelled with a Myc antibody by Western blotting, N=1.

Following this, I investigated whether established interacting partners of SNAP-25 could be identified via this method. SNAP-25, VAMP-2 and Syntaxin immunoreactivity were investigated. Each of the proteins were identified in the lysate and elution fractions, indicating their association with Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 (Figure 4.15).

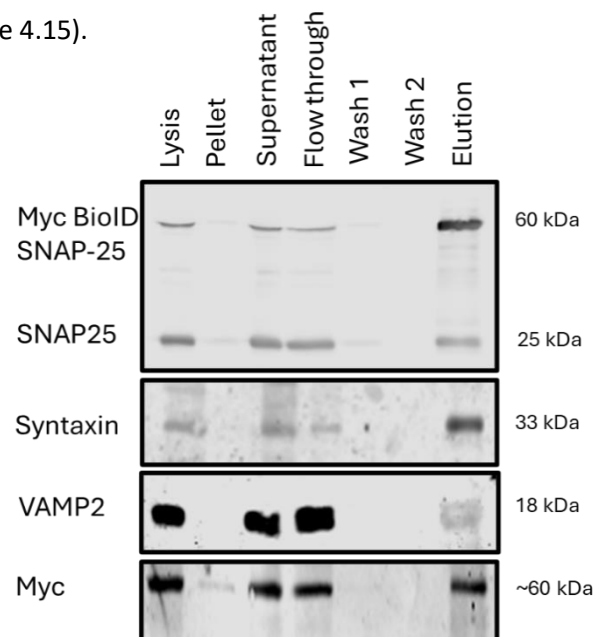


Figure 4.15: Investigating established SNAP-25 interacting partners via immunoprecipitation of Myc BioID-SNAP-25 from PC12 cell lysates. Samples of lysates from PC12 cells transfected with Myc-BioID- SNAP-25 were immunoprecipitated using Myc beads and eluted. The proteins were resolved by SDS-PAGE and labelled with antibodies for SNAP-25, Syntaxin, Vamp-2, Myc (control), N=3.

4.4.15 Investigation into if candidate E3 ligases immunoprecipitated with SNAP-25

Having established the credibility of Myc-directed immunoprecipitation to identify SNAP-25 binding partners, I investigated whether this approach could be used to investigate the predicted interaction between SNAP-25 and the E3 ligases FBXO7, TRIM9 or Parkin.

PC12 cells were transfected with the Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 construct, and the lysates were subjected to Myc-immunoprecipitation. The samples were resolved by SDS-PAGE and immunolabeled with TRIM9, FBXO7 and Parkin. Both TRIM9 and FBXO7 had immunoreactivity in the lysate, supernatant and flowthrough, but not in the elution fractions. This suggests there isn't a detectable direct interaction between Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 and either FBXO7 or TRIM9 (Figure 4.16). Supporting my conclusion from BioID proximity-dependent experiments (Section 4.4.11).

Whilst blotting for established SNAP-25 interacting partners, it was noted that when mouse secondary antibodies were used, non-specific immunoreactivity was detected in the eluted fraction. This smeared immunoreactivity at 25 kDa and 50 kDa made a more specific resolution in this range challenging. Optimisation of the immunoprecipitation elution was attempted to reduce this by changing the elution buffer and protocol as described in (Appendix B.7). Whilst this reduced the non-specific immunoreactivity, it did not eliminate this confound if the resolved samples were probed for 2nd antibody only immunoreactivity. As such, identification of Parkin as a 50 kDa protein in the elution of Myc-pull downs was affected due to this nonspecific immunoreactivity.

When I investigated Parkin's interaction with Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 via Myc-immunoprecipitation, I identified immunoreactivity in the lysate, supernatant and flow-through and in the elution, where the immunoreactivity was present above the background to support the potential of a direct interaction between SNAP-25 and Parkin (Figure 4.16).

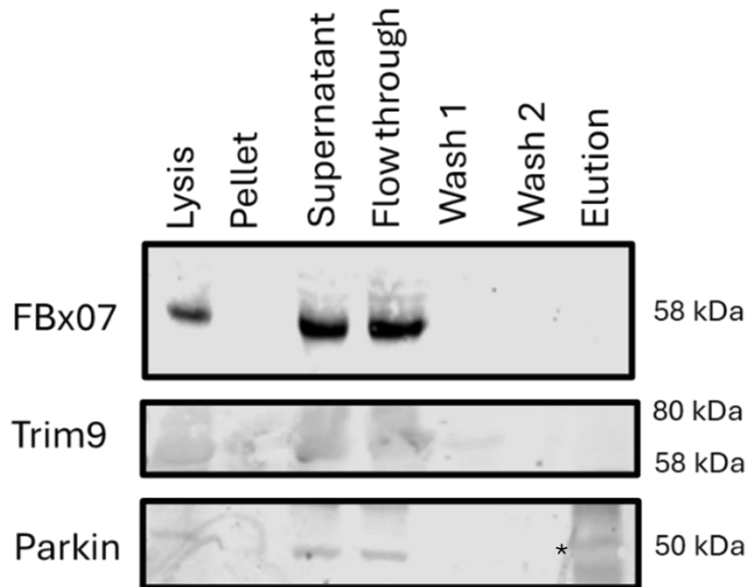


Figure 4.16: Investigating candidate SNAP-25 interacting partners in PC12 cells via immunoprecipitation of Myc BioID SNAP-25.

Lysates from PC12 cells transfected with Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 were subjected to Myc pull-down assays before samples were resolved by SDS-PAGE and labelled by Western blotting for FBX07, Trim9 and Parkin (where an asterisk indicates where there may be immunoreactive specificity in the elution fraction), N=3.

Lastly, immunoprecipitations were carried out on un-transfected samples and samples transfected with Myc-BioID and Myr-Myc-BioID; these samples were then run as lysates and eluates side by side and probed for Syntaxin and Parkin immunoreactivity. Syntaxin was present in the lysate of each of the samples but was only present in the elute of the Myc-BioID-SNAP25-transfected samples, confirming the immunoprecipitation was specific for the Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 construct. For Parkin, immunoreactivity was present in the lysates of each sample, and there was immunoreactivity in the elution of the Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 transfected sample but not in the other conditions. This provides further support in addition to the evidence provided by BioID, indicating a specific interaction between SNAP-25 and Parkin (Figure 4.17).

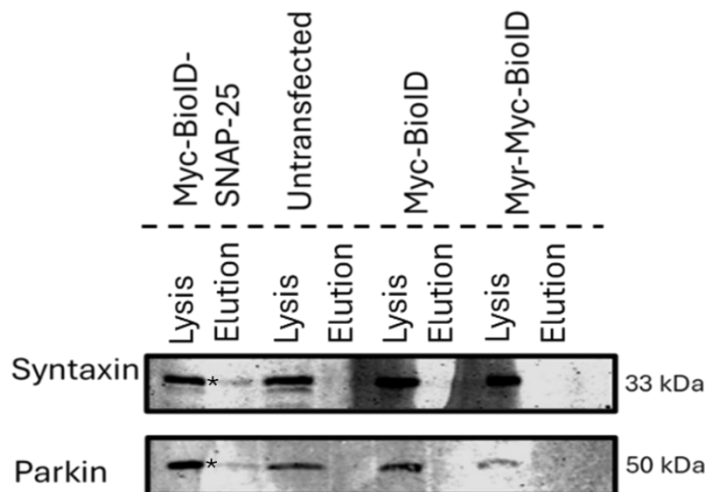


Figure 4.17: Comparison of Syntaxin and Parkin association with Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 in PC12 cells

Lysates taken from either untransfected PC12 or cells transfected with Myc-BioID-SNAP25, Myc-BioID or Myr-Myc-BioID of Syntaxin and Parkin were resolved by SDS-PAGE and labelled with antibodies by western blot to identify any non-specific immunoprecipitation of Syntaxin and Parkin. With specific immunoreactivity of Syntaxin and Parkin highlighted with an asterisk in elution of the Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 transfected samples (N=2).

4.5 Discussion

SNAP-25 is a presynaptic SNARE protein which is ubiquitinated and degraded as part of its normal life cycle and is increasingly degraded in the absence of its chaperone CSP α (Sharma et al., 2012a). There is a current lack of understanding of the proteins that are responsible for the ubiquitination and subsequent degradation of SNAP-25. Presynaptic ubiquitination is a key event in the in proteostasis (Tseng *et al.*, 2023, Sugiyama and Nishitoh, 2024). Therefore, I have developed approaches that focus on E3 ligases that might ubiquitinate SNAP-25 to further our understanding of proteostasis at the presynapse.

4.5.1 E3 ligases identified by bioinformatic approaches tested for interaction with SNAP-25

In the previous chapter, I used bioinformatics to predict potential E3 ligases that might have a role in the ubiquitination of SNAP-25. Here, I tested the three E3 ligases ranked as most likely to interact with SNAP-25 based on the findings of Chapter 3.

4.5.2 Myc-BioID constructs were generated and expressed in HEK293FT and PC12 cells

Within this chapter, I outlined the generation and validation of Myc-BioID constructs: MycBioID-SNAP-25, Myc-BioID and Myr-Myc-BioID, which have been used for proximity-dependent experiments in HEK293FT (Section 4.4.8) and PC12 cells (Section 4.4.11). The constructs were found to localise to expected domains and displayed distinct biotinylation activity consistent with differing localisation (Section 4.4.4-4.4.5). Plasma membrane localisation and confirmed proximity and interaction with established interacting partners suggest that the addition of the Myc-BioID cassette doesn't affect targeting or protein interaction of SNAP-25.

4.5.3 Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 bound to known interactors but not TRIM9 and FBXO7

BioID provided evidence for proximity between SNAP-25 established interactors (Figure 4.11) (Sutton et al., 1998) but there was no evidence of proximity via BioID pull-down for either TRIM9 or FBXO7 (Figure 4.12). Similarly, SNAP-25 and its established binding partners were shown to interact via an immunoprecipitation approach, but there was no evidence of an association between SNAP-25 and Trim9 or FBXO7.

In the case of TRIM9, this implies that these approaches have been unable to recapitulate previous findings, which provide evidence of a direct interaction with SNAP-25 in brain tissue and neuronal culture. Initially, a yeast two-hybrid screen identified an interaction between TRIM9 and SNAP-25 in rat brain. This was then followed up with affinity-capture and coimmunoprecipitation experiments in neurons, confirming a physical association between Trim9 and SNAP-25 (Yankun Li et al., 2001).

The TRIM family proteins have a broad range of biological functions. TRIM9 has E3 ubiquitin ligase activity and can self-ubiquitinate in the presence of the E2 ligase UbcH5b (Tanji et al., 2010). It also ubiquitinates VASP, but hasn't been shown to ubiquitinate SNAP-25 (Menon et al., 2015). The TRIM9 E3 ligase catalytic domain is not required for interaction with SNAP-25, suggesting that SNAP-25 and TRIM9 may interact in an E3 ligase-independent fashion (Y. Li *et al.*, 2001, Winkle *et al.*, 2014). TRIM9-SNAP-25 binding leads to SNAP-25 being sequestered and inhibited, regulating SNARE complex formation and exocytosis (Y. Li et al., 2001).

Not identifying any evidence of proximity between SNAP-25 and TRIM9 in either the HEK293FT or PC12 cells may suggest that the cellular system, environmental conditions or the presence of other proteins is required for the binary interaction between SNAP-25 and TRIM9. The expression levels of both proteins, the predominantly plasma membrane expression of the Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 or the

tagging of SNAP-25, may also contribute to an interaction not being identified. However, the N-terminal tagging of SNAP-25 does not disrupt its interaction with Syntaxin (Section 4.4.11).

Not identifying evidence for proximity between SNAP-25 and FBXO7 is less surprising. FBXO7 is an E3 ligase that was followed up here, as SNAP-25 was identified in a high-throughput screen as one of 338 potential ubiquitinated substrates of SCFFbxo7 in an *in vitro* ubiquitination assay, but the interaction has yet to be validated (Teixeira et al., 2016a). One suggestion is that SNAP25 is not a substrate of FBXO7, but alternative explanations could be that whilst FBXO7 has the potential to ubiquitinate SNAP-25, they may not interact in the PC12 cellular context or may require the presence of other proteins or stressors to drive the activated response.

4.5.4 BioID used to identify proximity between Myc BioID SNAP-25 and E3 ligase Parkin

The major finding of this work was evidence that SNAP-25 and Parkin interact in an E3 ligase independent fashion. The work evidenced that both endogenous (Section 4.4.11 and 4.4.13), HA-WT type and HA-C431S Parkin are found proximal to SNAP-25 and have the capacity to interact (Section 4.4.14).

4.5.5 Bioinformatic support for an interaction between Parkin and SNAP-25

To try and characterise potential interaction domains between Parkin and SNAP-25, I employed AlphaFold Multimer (Jumper *et al.*, 2021). Alpha fold predicted a model for Parkin and SNAP-25 to interact with a low confidence below 0.5 with regards to the predicted template modelling (pTM) score and the interface predicted template modelling (ipTM) score which means there are likely to be errors in the predicted structure (EMBL-EBI, April 2025), the ipTM score can be affected by disordered regions, such as the linker region of SNAP-25 which may reduce the confidence of the prediction (EMBL-EBI, April 2025).

In the model I generated, the linker region of Parkin between the UB1 and RINGO domains is predicted to loop around both the SNARE domains of SNAP-25. Part of the linker region in Parkin between the Ubl and RINGO domains is involved in interactions with other proteins, and is made up of hydrophobic residues, which act as a binding pocket for Parkin substrate Miro-1 (Koszela *et al.*, 2024). As such, if an interaction was confirmed, this may be a region in Parkin to investigate as a site of SNAP-25 interaction (Figure 4.18).

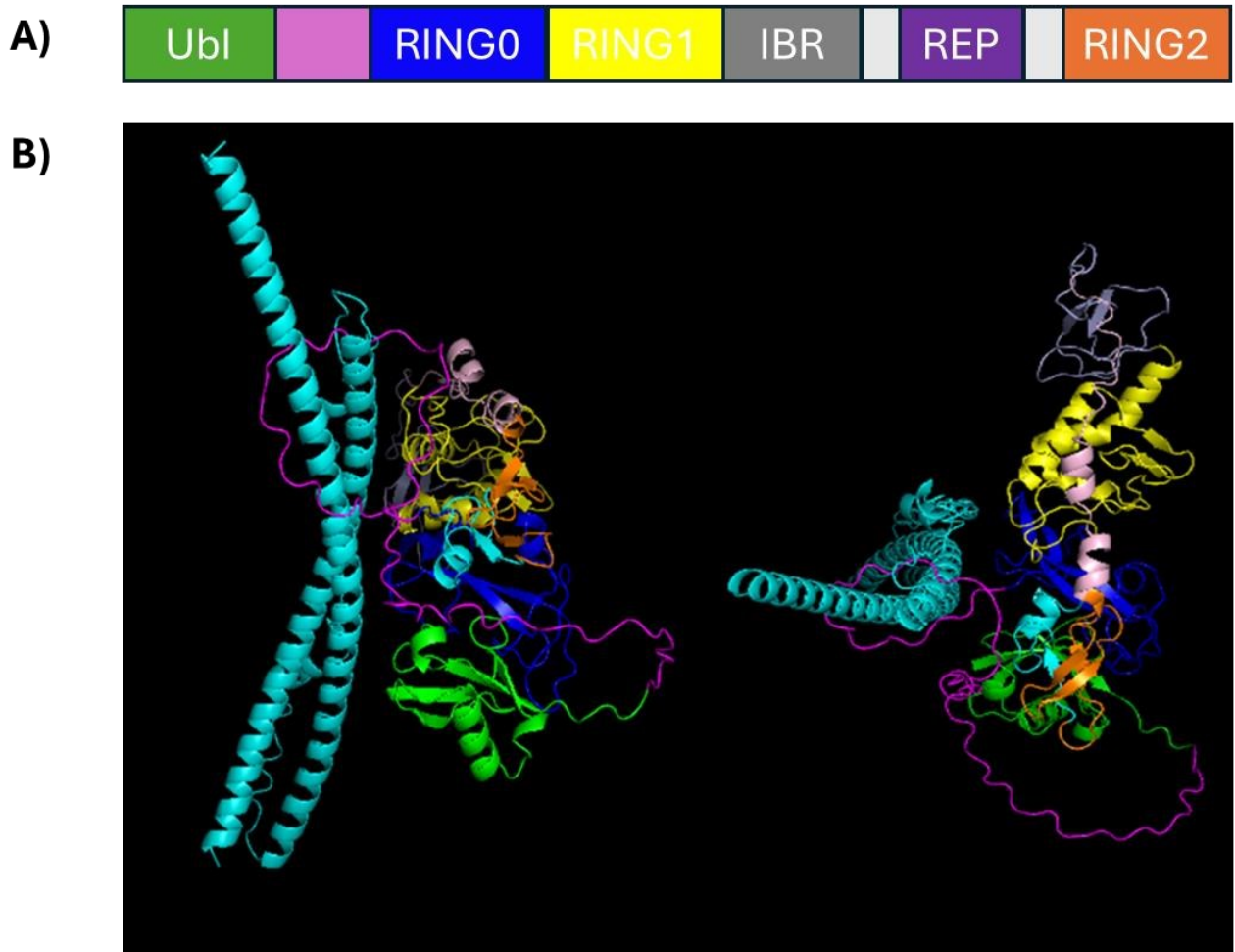


Figure 4.18: AlphaFold prediction of Parkin-SNAP-25 interaction in Parkin's linker region.

A) Domain architecture of Parkin with domains highlighted. B) A Ribbon representation of the top-ranked AlphaFold2 Colabfold model of Parkin-SNAP-25 interaction, visualised with PyMol. A schematic of Parkin in its autoinhibited conformation and SNAP-25. Parkin with its structural elements in sequence order: Ubl (Green), linker (magenta), RING0 (Blue), RING1 (Yellow), IBR (Grey), REP (Purple), RING2 (Orange) (colour coding corresponding to domains depicted in A). SNAP-25 in cyan is formed of two SNARE domains and a disordered region.

4.5.6 Literature Support for an Interaction between SNAP-25 and Parkin

SNAP-25 and Parkin are predicted to potentially interact by Ubibrowser (Section 3.4.2). However, no evidence for a direct interaction was identified. In addition, I used BioGrid to distil a list of known interactors of both SNAP-25 and Parkin. This didn't reveal any overlap between known interactors for the two proteins. This implies no obvious intermediate that could support proximity through an intermediate rather than a direct interaction.

My experiments suggest that the potential interaction between SNAP-25 and Parkin is E3 ligase independent. This could suggest that the interaction may have an alternative role outside ubiquitination and direct proteostasis. This would mirror the proposed regulatory role of the TRIM9-SNAP-25 interaction (Winkle *et al.*, 2014b). An alternative explanation could be that Parkin and SNAP-25 don't directly interact but have proximity due to an interaction with a third party. Candidates could include PINK1, which binds Parkin, and SNAP-25 has been observed to facilitate PINK1-dependent mitophagy, with evidence that depletion of SNAP-25 destabilises PINK1 on mitochondrial membranes (Wang *et al.*, 2023). TNFAIP1, which has been shown to ubiquitinate SNAP-25 and enhance the activity of Parkin/PINK1-dependent mitophagy (W. Wang *et al.*, 2023). An alternative possibility could be HSC70, which interacts and chaperones SNAP-25 and can be mono-ubiquitinated by Parkin (Imai *et al.*, 2002, Moore *et al.*, 2008). To test if the interaction is direct, further experiments could be carried out, including GST-pulldowns and crosslinking reactions.

4.5.7 Potential non E3 ligase-substrate roles of a SNAP-25 – Parkin interaction

Parkin research has focused predominantly on its role as an E3 ligase at the mitochondria. However, emerging work is expanding this view with data supporting both lysosomal and endosomal functions and crosstalk with synaptic vesicles (Song and Krainc, 2024).

There is evidence to support Parkin localisation on (Kubo *et al.*, 2001) or in close contact with the membranes of synaptic vesicles (Mouatt-Prigent *et al.*, 2004). Although SNAP-25 is an abundant plasma membrane protein, it, like its partner SNARE proteins, undergoes dynamic trafficking onto endo membranes. Such that large pools exist on these membranes also (Walch-Solimena *et al.*, 1995). Allowing for the possibility of SNAP-25 and Parkin being in the vicinity of each other. Parkin also interacts with or ubiquitinates proteins in the vicinity of SNAP25, such as CDCrel-1 and Synphilin-1, Synaptotagmin XI, Synaptojanin-1 and HSP/HSC70 (Zhang *et al.*, 2000, Chung *et al.*, 2001, Wang *et al.*, 2018, Song *et al.*, 2023, Song and Krainc, 2024, Moore *et al.*, 2008) (The roles Parkin has at the pre- and post-synapses are summarised in Table 3.1 in Chapter 3).

The presynaptic localisation of Parkin on the cytoplasmic surface of synaptic vesicles suggests that it may have the potential to interact with other proteins involved in the vesicle cycle, such as SNAP-25. There are a number of conditions where it could be hypothesised that SNAP-25 and Parkin may interact. 1. During oxidative stress or synaptic damage, if SNAP-25 undergoes misfolding, Parkin could potentially be recruited to ubiquitinate and lead to the removal of dysfunctional SNAP-25. This is supported by the fact that Parkin is found in synaptosomes and ubiquitinated synaptic proteins (Zhang *et al.*, 2000, Chung *et al.*, 2001, Kubo *et al.*, 2001) 2. The mitochondria cluster near the synaptic terminal (Graham *et al.*, 2017, Faitg *et al.*, 2021). Upon mitochondrial dysfunction near

active zones, Parkin may be recruited by PINK1 accumulation, potentially leading to proximity between SNAP-25 and Parkin, which could allow Parkin mediated remodelling of synaptic membrane components. 3. In times of high neuronal activity or plasticity, such as during activity-dependent remodelling or synaptic pruning, this could lead to an excess or a pool of inactive SNAP-25 needing to be degraded (Sheehan et al., 2016), for which Parkin may be involved in tagging. 4. In some diseased states, such as in models of Parkinson's disease, Parkin is sometimes overexpressed or mis-localised; as such, there is the potential that in diseased states, Parkin may become localised to the synaptic membranes and influence SNAP-25 turnover, which could contribute to the synaptic dysfunction observed in Parkinson's disease (Cookson *et al.*, 2003, Lebedeva *et al.*, 2023, Clausen *et al.*, 2024).

4.6 Summary

Whilst this study has not confirmed a direct interaction between SNAP-25 and an E3 ligase or confirmed any E3 ligase's specific ability to ubiquitinate SNAP-25, it has led to the suggestion that Parkin may either directly or indirectly interact with SNAP-25, which is an interesting avenue in light of the disease implications that alterations in both of the proteins have. (See Section 6.5 for future directions)

Chapter 5 Generation of a CRISPR CSP α Deficient PC12 Model

5.1 Introduction

To date, most work investigating CSP α has been undertaken in a neuronal post-mitotic context (Section 1.5). Mouse, *Drosophila* and *C. elegans* knock-out models have been generated (Section 1.5.4) with different phenotypic outcomes. Recently, work has been undertaken in proliferating stem cells and cancerous systems (Section 1.5.10), which have provided evidence of alternative and additional cell-type-specific roles of CSP α .

Whilst SNAP-25 hyper-ubiquitination has been well characterised in the CSP α $-/-$ mouse model, E3 ligases have not been identified that may interact with SNAP-25 in this context. To carry out BioID using SNAP-25 with the reagents generated in the previous chapter, this system would require harvesting embryos from CSP α litters, performing genotyping, and generating single embryo cultures. It would then require transfection of these cultures with the reagents generated.

Due to the complications and the limitations around the number of cells able to be harvested for single-embryonic cultures and the low transfection rate of neurons, it was decided that a PC12 CRISPR Cas9 CSP α knockout model would be generated. Using CSP α knockdown PC12 cells would allow greater levels of flexibility and still allow for probing in a neuronal-like environment upon differentiation with NGF, and as such it could be used as a tool to carry out BioID of SNAP-25 to probe for SNAP-25 interactors in the chaperone-deficient environment.

5.1.1 Using CRISPR-Cas technology

CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeat) Cas is a genomic engineering technology that allows genomic changes that including knock out via deletion, base editing and knock-in of DNA sequences. This allows a versatile transformation of the system that allows the loss, alteration, correction or knock-in of a gene into cells and organisms (Hall et al., 2018, Lau et al., 2020).

CRISPR requires two components: a guide RNA (sgRNA) and a CRISPR-associated endonuclease (Cas) enzyme. The sgRNA is a short synthetic RNA formed of a 3-nucleotide sequence termed a Protospacer Adjacent Motif (PAM) site, which acts as a scaffold sequence required for Cas-binding, and a ~20-nucleotide sequence which defines the target to be modified that must be unique compared to the rest of the genome and adjacent to the PAM site (Jinek *et al.*, 2012, Ran *et al.*, 2013).

The CRISPR components can be introduced into cells by transduction of viral vectors such as adenovirus and lentivirus, via transfection of non-viral vectors and via physical methods such as via electroporation and microinjection (Liu *et al.*, 2017, Milone and O'Doherty, 2018).

5.1.2 Using CRISPR-Cas technology to generate knockout cell lines

The sgRNA and the Cas9 protein form a ribonucleoprotein complex, causing an activating conformational change in Cas9, allowing DNA-binding (Anders *et al.*, 2014). Once bound, the sgRNA sequence will begin to anneal to the target DNA, upon which Cas9 will undergo another conformational change where the opposite strand of DNA is cleaved, leading to a double strand break (DSB) in the target DNA ~3-4 nucleotides upstream of the PAM sequence.

The DSB is repaired by either non-homologous end joining (NHEJ), which is efficient but error prone, due to directly ligating the break ends (Chang *et al.*, 2017) or homology-directed repair (HDR), which is less efficient but has high fidelity due to the DNA being copied directly from a matched template (Jasin and Rothstein, 2013). NHEJ frequently causes small nucleotide indels, insertions or deletions at the site of the DSB, leading to an array of mutations. Indels often result in amino acid deletions, insertions or frame shifts, leading to the formation of premature stop codons in an open reading frame (Chang *et al.*, 2017).

HDR uses a homologous sequence as a template for the repair of the double-strand break and is a more accurate mechanism for repair than NHEJ. If the DNA template is identical to the original DNA, then the process is generally error-free (Smithies *et al.*, 1985, Bollag *et al.*, 1989, Jasin and Rothstein, 2013). HDR and NHEJ are not mutually exclusive and can both occur concurrently during DNA double-strand break repair. NHEJ is usually the predominant pathway, but HDR can be favoured under certain conditions or manipulations (Yang *et al.*, 2020).

5.1.3 Identifying CRISPR knockdowns

In a situation where CRISPR is engineered to introduce a deletion that knocks out gene function by generating NHEJ and associated small nucleotide mutations, there is a propensity to cause frame shifts that lead to functional reduction or knockdowns.

Whilst CRISPR leads to the knockout of a specific protein via destroying an allele in a cell, if a cell culture is formed of mixed colonies, there is the possibility that there will be a mix of cells with some being wildtype and some null, leading to a knockdown rather than a complete knockout across the culture.

Generating knockdown cell lines with CRISPR-Cas technology is a well-established technique (Wang and Doudna, 2023). Identifying changes in mRNA expression can be carried out with RTqPCR or RNA-seq, and protein expression can be monitored by western blot, ELISA, flow cytometry or proteomics. Whilst sequencing allows characterisation of the editing events via DNA sequencing of the CRISPR targeted region, NGS or by sequencing followed by analysis with Tracks indels by decomposition (TIDE) software (Germini et al., 2018).

5.1.4 Using PC12 cells to study neuronal proteins

PC12 cells are a rat cell line derived from a pheochromocytoma of the adrenal medulla (Greene and Tischler, 1976). PC12 cells are used in research into neuronal function and can be induced to differentiate into neuron-like cells when exposed to neurotrophins (Greene and Tischler, 1976, Westerink and Ewing, 2008). These differentiated cells are a good model for the presynaptic site (Tao-Cheng et al., 1995)

5.1.5 Trk Neurotrophins and the Epidermal Growth Factor Receptors

Neurotrophins such as Nerve growth factor (NGF) are signalling molecules with roles in neuronal development and survival (Dechant et al., 1994). Neurotrophins bind to receptors named Trk (tyrosine kinase) receptors. TrkA binds NGF (Greene and Tischler, 1976, Wiesmann et al., 1999), TrkB binds brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) (Squinto *et al.*, 1991) and NT4 (Minichiello et al., 1998), and TrkC binds NT-3 (Urfer et al., 1994).

In PC12 cells, the addition of NGF acts through its Trk receptors, leading to sustained activation of the mitogen-activated protein (MAP) kinases, triggering the formation of neurite outgrowths and promoting neuronal-like differentiation (Pang et al., 1995, Kao et al., 2001). Knockout of TrkA in PC12

cells leads to a loss of NGF-responsiveness and an inability to induce neuronal like differentiation (Testa et al., 2022).

The Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) is a receptor for the epidermal growth factor family (EGF) (Rude Voldborg et al., 1997) involved in cell growth and differentiation (Boonstra et al., 1995). In PC12 cells, the addition of EGF leads to transient activation of the mitogen activated protein kinases (MAPKs). This transient activation does not promote neurite outgrowth that follows the sustained activation triggered by NGF but promotes cell growth and proliferation (Kao et al., 2001).

5.1.6 Label-free proteomics to investigate changes in protein expression

Alteration of particular proteins, such as via CRISPR knockdown, can lead to alterations in the expression of other proteins. These changes in protein expression can be investigated using techniques that compare the protein abundance between control and altered cell samples.

Proteomics is used to study the protein expression of a biological sample (Cui et al., 2022). Label-free proteomics is a quantitative method that doesn't require chemical or isotopic labelling of samples, relying instead on the abundance of peptides to determine absolute or relative quantities compared to a control (Anand et al., 2017). Label-free proteomics advantages include a reduced cost and increased throughput compared to traditional labelled proteomics (Figure 5.1). Label-free proteomics can be performed by measuring chromatographic ion intensity changes as peptide peaks or by spectral counting the identified proteins (Zhu et al., 2010).

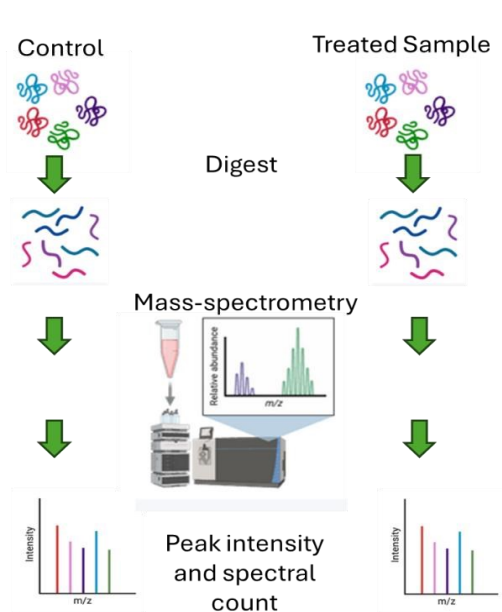


Figure 5.1: General approach of Label-free quantitative proteomics

Control and treated samples are harvested and are subjected to individual digestion; the digested peptides are then separated, and mass spectroscopy analysis is carried out. Quantification of the spectra from the control and the treated samples based on the comparison of peak intensity of the same peptide or the spectral count of the same protein is then carried out to determine the abundance change of peptides between the samples.

Adapted from Huang et al, 2010.

For label-free proteomics, proteins from the control and the treated sample are extracted from the cells or tissue and digested into their peptides. Peptides are separated by either gas or liquid chromatography and analysed by mass spectrometry (Figure 5.1), after which the peptides and corresponding protein identification and quantification are carried out using software such as OpenMS, MapQuant and PEAKS Q (Zhu et al., 2010).

Caveats surrounding label-free quantitative mass spectrometry include the fact that the analysis of protein abundance from biological samples can be complex, and peptide peak intensities can differ even between runs of the same sample due to preparation and sample injection, which leads to the requirement for normalisation to account for variation. The large amount of data generated from MS of complex protein mixtures needs to be automated to process the data. Whereby, the peptide peaks need to be distinguished from the background noise and other peptides, and the LC/GC-MS retention times adjusted to match peaks between sample runs (termed peak matching). Chromatographic peak intensity then needs to be calculated either by measuring the peak area or the peak height, and statistical analysis is carried out (Student's t-test) to determine the significance of changes between multiple samples (Zhu et al., 2010, Anand et al., 2017).

5.2 Aims

1. This chapter aimed to generate a CSP α knockdown PC12 line via CRISPR-Cas-9 technology to use it as a tractable model of synaptic proteasomal dysfunction.
2. Characterise the CSP α -deficient lines in comparison to the Parental and Lenti CRISPR control.

5.3 Results

5.3.1 Identification of alteration of protein levels of CSP α in PC12 lines transfected with sgRNAs targeting CSP α

Parental PC12-TrkB cells were transfected with either one of the 5 Lenti CRISPR sgRNA's plasmids (sgRNA_3 targeting exon 3, sgRNA_4A, B and C targeting exon 4 or sgRNA_5 targeting exon 5) or with an empty Lenti CRISPR control plasmid (Section 2.4). After transfection, the cells were selected with puromycin and allowed to recover. Western blotting for CSP α was carried out to determine if the sgRNA guides led to the knockdown of CSP α (Figure 5.2).

Two guides, sgRNA_3 targeting exon 3 and sgRNA_5 targeting exon 5, led to a clear reduction of CSP α protein compared to a Parental control and the empty Lenti CRISPR plasmid control. These have been termed PC12 CSP α deficient 3 (CD3) and PC12 CSP α deficient 5 (CD5). In contrast, the other sgRNA-transfected lines showed no alteration in expression levels of CSP α and were not pursued further in this thesis (Data not shown).

In an independent set of experiments, protein extracts were made from these four lines: Parental (Control), Lenti CRISPR (Control), CD3 and CD5. These extracts were then subjected to quantitative western blotting for CSP α (N=3). A reduction in CSP α of 82% was observed for cells transfected with guide sgRNA_3 and 95% in cells transfected with guide sgRNA_5 compared to the Parental PC12 line, normalised to GAPDH (Figure 5.2). The CSP α antibody used, Synaptic Systems 154 003, recognises the amino acids 182-198 in the C-terminal of CSP α , which is downstream of both CRISPR sites; as such, it is possible that if a truncated protein was formed, it would not be detected with this antibody.

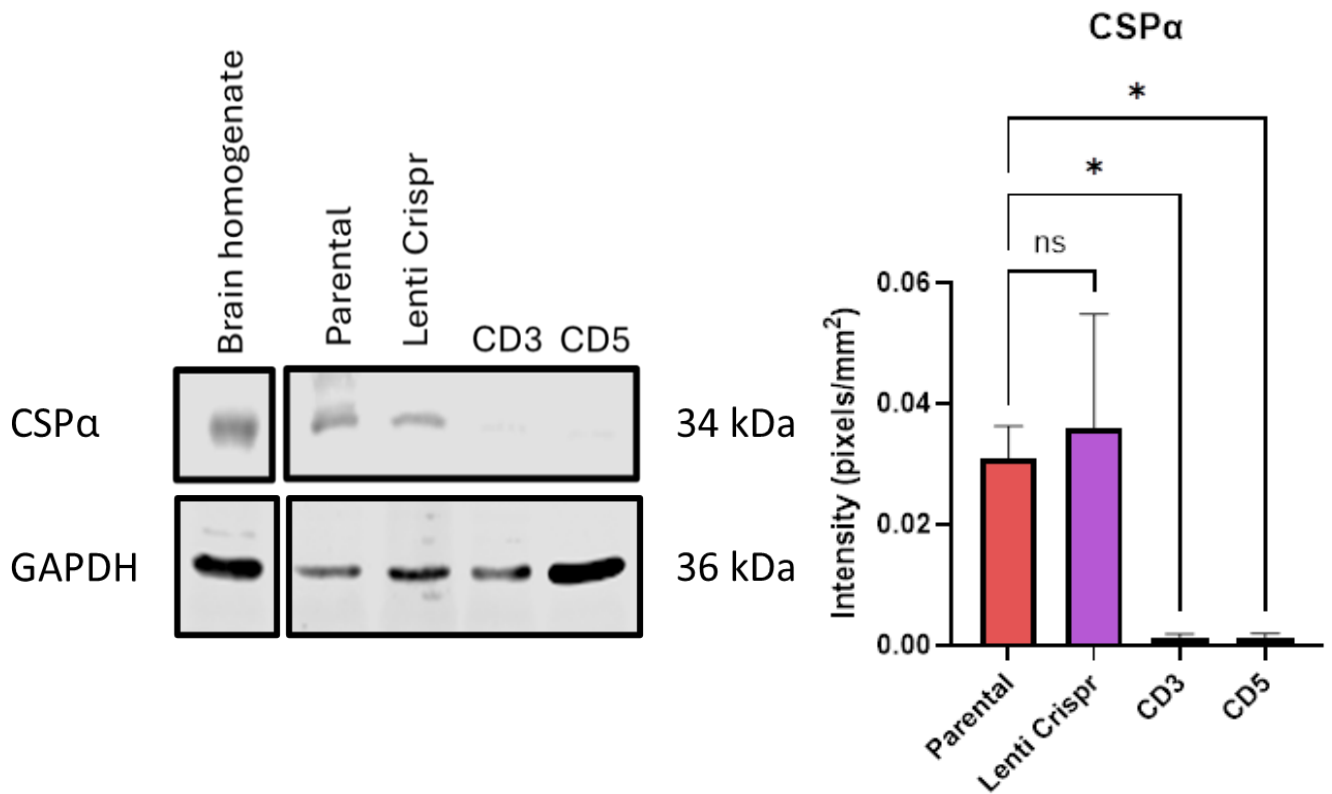


Figure 5.2: PC12 cells transfected with Lenti CRISPR plasmids containing guides sgRNA_3 and sgRNA_5 led to a knockdown in CSPα.

30 µg mouse brain homogenate (Adult female C57BL/6) and cell lysate from Parental, Lenti CRISPR, CD3 and CD5 were resolved by SDS-PAGE, western blotted and labelled with antibodies for CSPα and GAPDH. Intensity values of the immunofluorescent protein bands were normalised to the loading control GAPDH. A comparison between the Parental and each of the transfected conditions was made using ANOVA, with significance denoted as * $p < 0.05$, $N=4$).

5.3.2 Molecular description of CRISPR genomic disruption in CSPα-deficient lines

To determine the molecular event that led to the generation of the CRISPR-mediated knockdown of the CSPα, Genomic DNA was extracted, and cDNA was made from extracted RNA from the Parental, Lenti CRISPR, CD3 and CD5 lines. SNAP-25 were amplified and sequenced from the genomic and cDNA from all 4 lines (Figure 5.3, A, Alignment Figure 5.17).

Primer pairs for amplification across the CD3 and the CD5 CRISPR-targeted regions were designed and generated for amplification from genomic DNA. The Primer pairs amplified fragments of the expected sizes in the Parental and the Lenti CRISPR lines. However, no amplification of CD3 and insufficient amplification of CD5 for sequencing were generated. This may suggest greater disruption

in the intronic regions surrounding the CRISPR events, but this was not determined as part of this work (See appendix C.1).

Primers depicted in (Figure 5.3, B) were used to amplify the region of DNAJC5 spanning exons 3-5 from cDNA. Amplification of DNAJC5 from cDNA produced two bands in the Parental, Lenti CRISPR, CD3 and CD5 as previously reported in cDNA generated from PC12 cells, chromaffin cells and from the spleen (Chamberlain and Burgoyne, 1996, Coppola and Gundersen, 1996). The lower band shares sequence identity with rat brain DNAJC5, whilst the upper band corresponds to a splice variant with an additional 72-base insert, based on work by (Coppola and Gundersen, 1996).

For CD3, there were low levels of amplification upon attempted amplification with the conditions optimised on the Parental line using 25 cycles (Figure 5.3, A). With 35 cycles, CD3 was amplified and sent for Sanger sequencing. The quality of the sequence generated in the PCR did not allow for the nature of the CRISPR disruption to be defined, as sequencing chromatograms depicted multiple overlapping sequences, potentially suggestive of the presence of a mixed culture after CRISPR (See appendix section C, Figure C.2 for chromatogram).

Via amplification of cDNA from the CD5 cell line, it was possible to map a loss of four bases starting 4 bases upstream of the PAM site used for recognition of sgRNA_5 (Figure 5.3, C). Translation of this sequence suggests this loss led to a shift, leading to an alteration in the transcript after the CRISPR site, predicting a translation of a CSP α protein with an altered frame harbouring a premature stop codon (Figure 5.3, D).

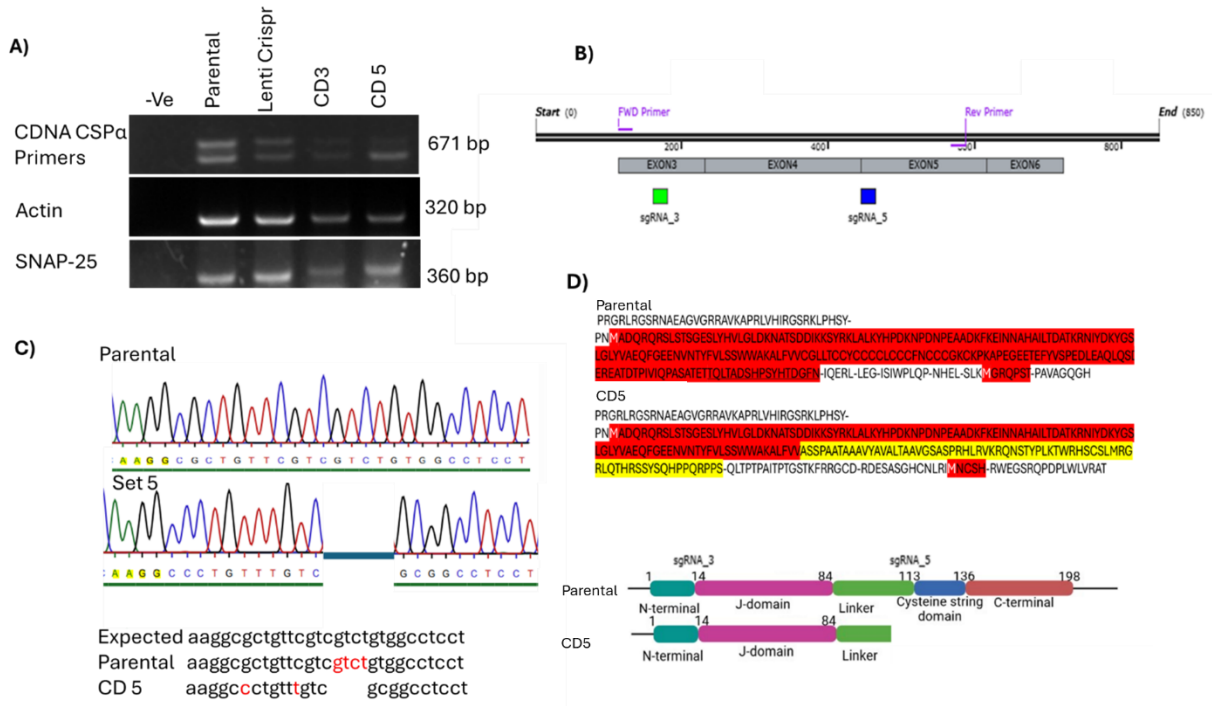


Figure 5.3: Determining the molecular events that generated CSP α -deficient lines. A) PCR amplifications of CSP α , Actin and SNAP-25 from cDNA from Parental, Lenti CRISPR only control, CSP α -deficient 3 and CSP α -deficient 5. PC12 cells B) CSP α cDNA schematic with localisation of primers used for amplification. C) Parental and CD5 sequencing chromatogram of site spanning the CRISPR region, with sequence below. D) Translation of Parental and CD5 sequences and schematic of corresponding Parental CSP α and CD5 protein.

5.3.3 Phenotypic changes in CSP α -deficient cells

5.3.3.1 Detailing the Alterations in the growth rate of CSP α -deficient cells

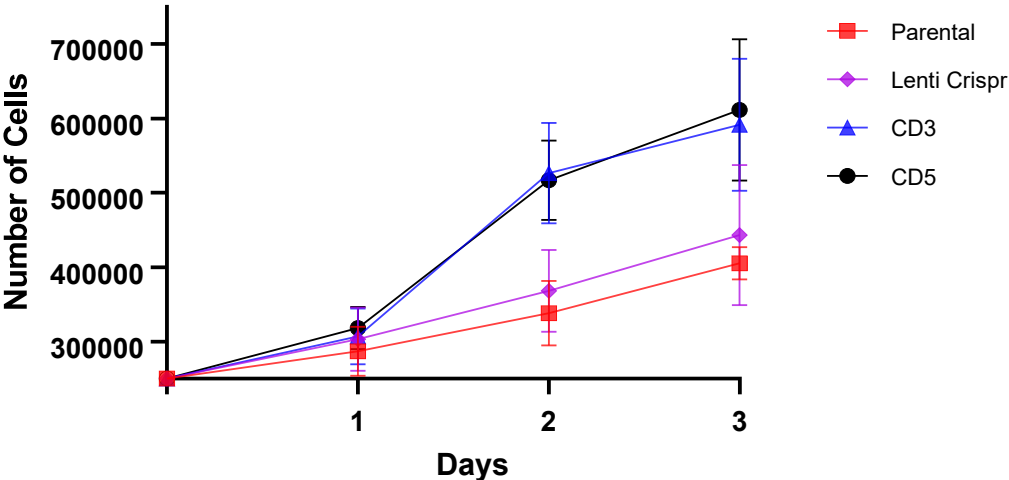
After recovery from the puromycin selection, it was observed that the CSP α -deficient lines (CD3 and CD5) were proliferating at an increased rate compared to the Parental and the Lenti CRISPR control lines. To quantify this qualitative observation, growth assays were carried out on the Parental, Lenti CRISPR and CSP α -deficient lines. After being seeded at a density of 250,000 cells, cells were counted over 3 Days to determine the growth rate.

Both CSP α -deficient lines showed increased growth rates in comparison to the Parental and Lenti CRISPR lines over the three-day time course (Figure 5.4). The Doubling Time of the Parental and the Lenti CRISPR lines was 3.1 and 3.6 days respectively, which was almost halved in the CSP α -deficient lines at 1.7 days for CD3 and 1.5 days for CD5. The reported rates for PC12 cells range from 1.6 to 3.8 days (PC-12- culturecollections.org, June 2025, Ds et al., 1999). When plated at a

density of 250,000, the Parental and the Lenti CRISPR cultures are about 40 % confluent by Day 2 and 80 % confluent by Day 3, whereas both CSP α deficient lines are at about 50-60 % confluent by Day 2 and 95-100 % confluent by Day 3. Two days after plating in culture, the control cells and the CSP α -deficient cells also appear to be growing differently, with the CSP α -deficient cells growing in tight clumps, whilst the control lines stay more spread, as illustrated below (Figure 5.4).

A)

PC12 knock down, Lenti Crispr and parental growth rate



B)

Line	Parental	Lenti CRISPR	CD3	CD5
Doubling Time Exponential (Malthusian) growth	3.083	3.636	1.743	1.590

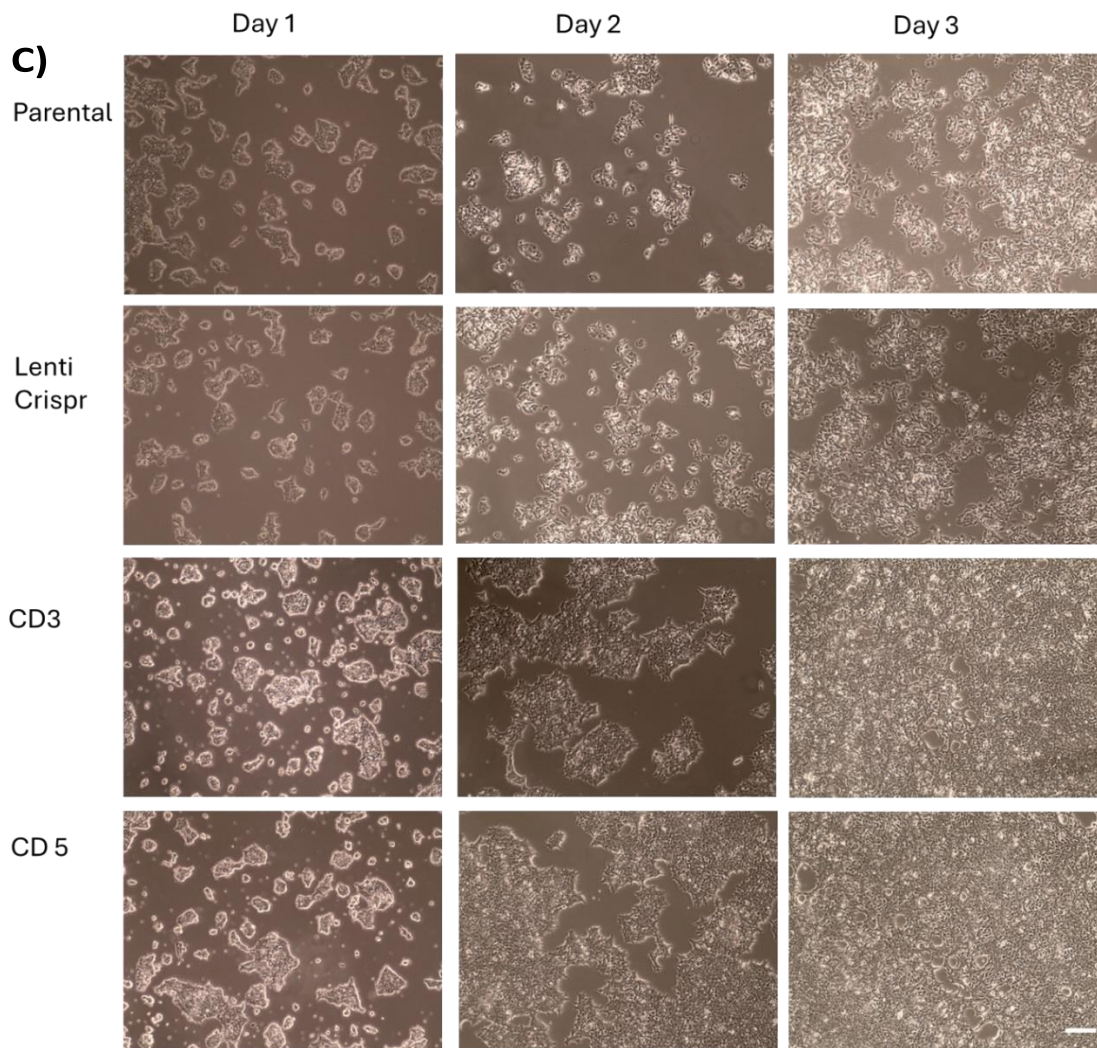


Figure 5.4: PC12 CSP α -deficient CD3 and CD5 cells proliferate more quickly than the Parental line

A) Parental (Control) (Red), Lenti CRISPR (Control) (Purple), CD3 (Blue) and CD5 (Black) cells (250,000 cells) were plated in triplicate and counted at 24, 48 and 72 hours post-plating, all data shown as \pm SEM B) with the Doubling Time Exponential (Malthusian) growth rates tabulated below C) Representative images of the cells at each of the time points counted, Scale bar =50 μ M. N=3 for each cell type at each time point.

5.3.3.2 CSP α -deficient lines don't differentiate in the presence of NGF or BDNF

Differentiation of PC12 cells is stimulated with a drop in serum levels and the addition of neurotrophins such as NGF (50 ng/ml) or BDNF (50 ng/ml) as described in Section 2.5.4.

In the control, Parental and Lenti CRISPR cell lines, the addition of NGF or BDNF led to a shift away from a proliferative state to one in which treated cells produced outgrowths with long, thin projections (Figure 5.5). When the same treatment was subjected to CD3 and CD5, the cell

populations failed to cease proliferation and did not produce outgrowths. Any projections formed were very short and triangular in comparison to the long, thin projections of the Parental and Lenti CRISPR cells (Figure 5.5).

Parental, Lenti CRISPR, CD3 and CD5 cells were plated at 5×10^5 cells per well in a 6-well plate, and NGF (50 ng/ml) was added 24 hours later. Each of the cultures were imaged for three days, after which the CD cell lines started to become over-confluent and detach from the cell culture dish. At day one, none of the cultures display outgrowths, but by day two, the Parental and the Lenti CRISPR cultures start to exhibit projections developing from cells. By day three, outgrowths have developed in a large number of the Parental and the Lenti CRISPR cells. Whilst in the CD3 and CD5 lines, no outgrowths are present, and the cells continued to proliferate despite the addition of NGF or BDNF. As such, by Day three, CD3 and CD5 were confluent and went on to form overlying cell sheets, often with the potential to detach from the dish.

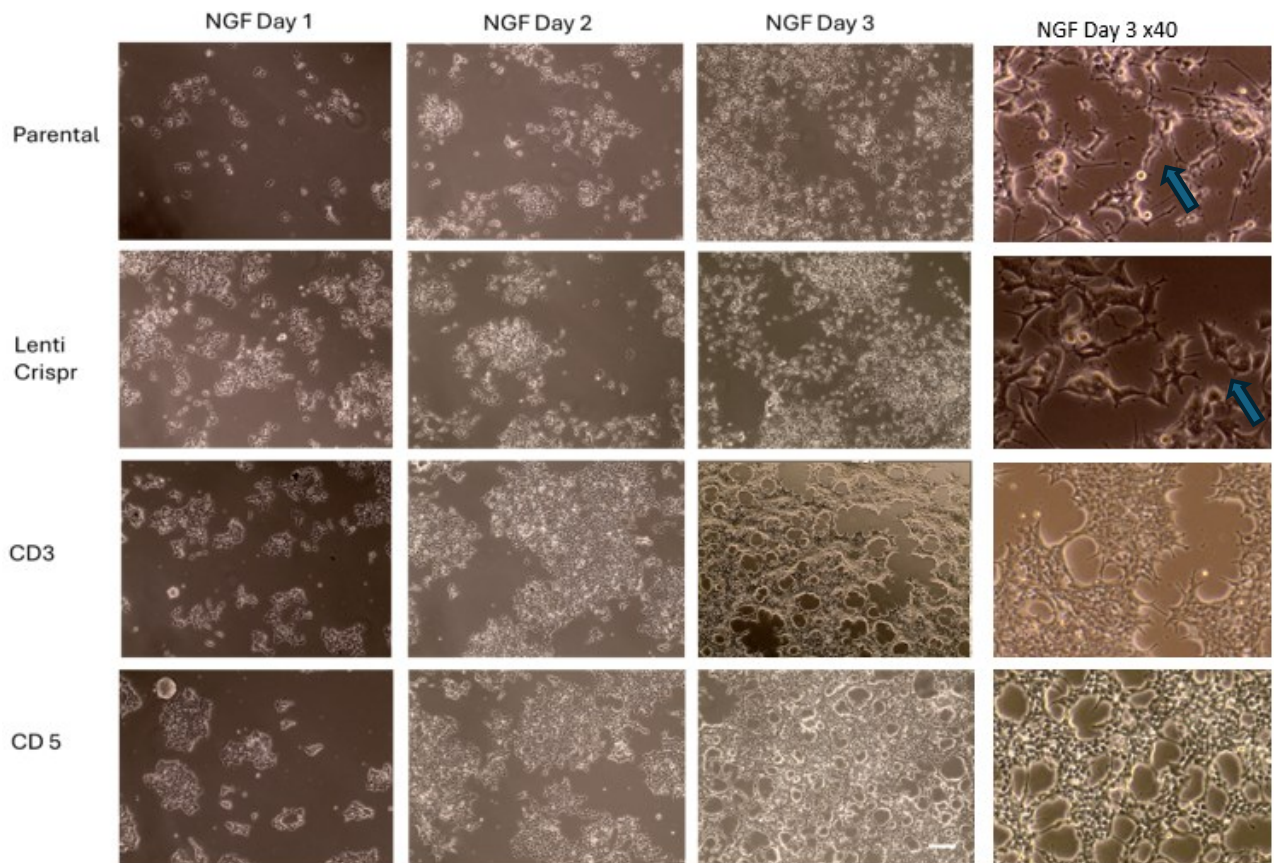


Figure 5.5: PC12 CSP α -deficient CD3 and CD5 cells fail to show signature differentiation in response to NGF Brightfield microscopy 10x magnification of Parental, Lenti CRISPR and PC12 CSP α -deficient CD3 and CD5 cells over three days after the addition of NGF (50 ng/ml), with arrows marking outgrowths observed in the Parental and Lenti CRISPR lines. N=3, Scale bar 50 μ M.

5.3.4 Neurotrophin receptor expression in CSP α knockdown models

Due to the refractory PC12 differentiation and increased proliferation observed in the CD3 and CD5 cell lines, I investigated whether Trk and EGF receptors were expressed in the distinct cells.

TrkB and total Trk receptors (Trk A and B) were readily detected in the Parental line but not in the CSP α -deficient lines (CD3 and CD5) (Figure 5.6). This deficiency explains the lack of NGF and BDNF responsiveness observed in Section 5.3.3.

The EGF receptor was undetectable in the Parental cell line but was readily detected in the CSP α -deficient lines (CD3 and CD5). This corresponds to the increased proliferation observed in Section 5.3.3.

5.3.4.1 Investigating expression of neurotrophins in CSP α -/- mouse forebrain tissue

To determine if this intriguing observation was also observed in another CSP α knockdown model, CSP α +/+ and -/- mouse forebrain tissue from postnatal pups p15-18 was blotted using the same antibodies; in this tissue, the TrkB antibodies detected a doublet. This likely reflects a second band previously assigned to the glycosylated form of the Trk A receptor (Figure 5.6). Importantly, this immunoreactivity was not significantly different between the CSP α +/+ and -/- tissue, indicating no difference in the expression of these. In contrast, there was a doubling of the relative abundance of the EGFR in CSP α knockout forebrain tissue, potentially suggestive of a selective stabilisation of EGFR in the CSP α -deficient cells and mouse model.

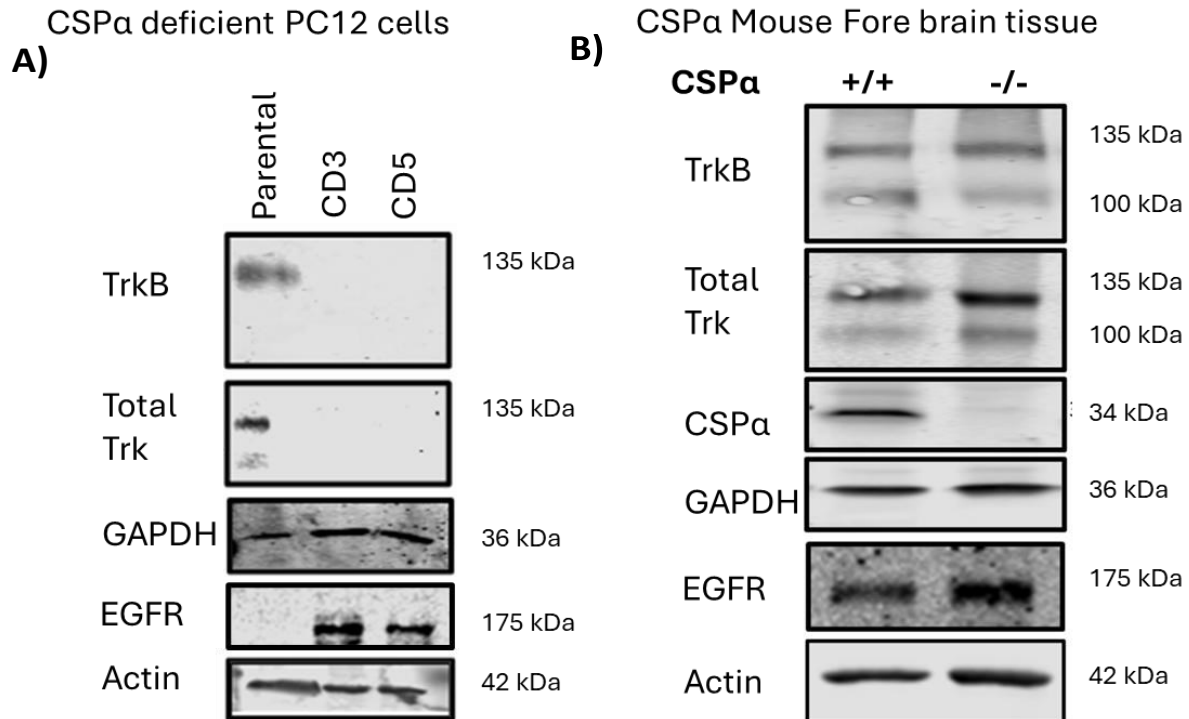


Figure 5.6: TRK and EGF receptor levels are altered in PC12 CSPα-deficient CD3 and CD5 cells

Levels of TRK and EGF receptors were investigated in the A) Parental and PC12 CSPα-deficient CD3 and CD5 cell lysates, and B) CSPα +/+ and -/- forebrain tissue. 20 µg of cell lysate or brain homogenate was resolved by SDS-PAGE, then labelled with the indicated antibodies by western blotting, N=3.

5.3.5 Alteration of neuronal CSPα clients SNAP-25 and Dyn-1 in the CSPα-deficient cells

5.3.5.1 Immunodetection of CSPα clients in CSPα-deficient cells

Protein extracts were made from the four lines (Parental, Lenti CRISPR, CD3 and CD5). These extracts were then subjected to quantitative western blotting for established neuronal CSPα clients SNAP-25 and Dyn-1 and other neuronal proteins VAMP-2 and PSD95 (N=3).

A reduction of SNAP-25 was calculated to be 90.5% for CD3 and 99% for CD5, with a significance p-value of <0.0001. Whilst Dyn-1 was reduced by 50 %, 72% and 74% for CD3 across three repeats and 61%, 78% and 86% for CD5 across three repeats. Synaptic markers, VAMP-2 and

PSD95, were measured, and their relative expression between the Parental and Lenti CRISPR controls and CD3 and CD5 were quantifiably unchanged (Figure 5.7).

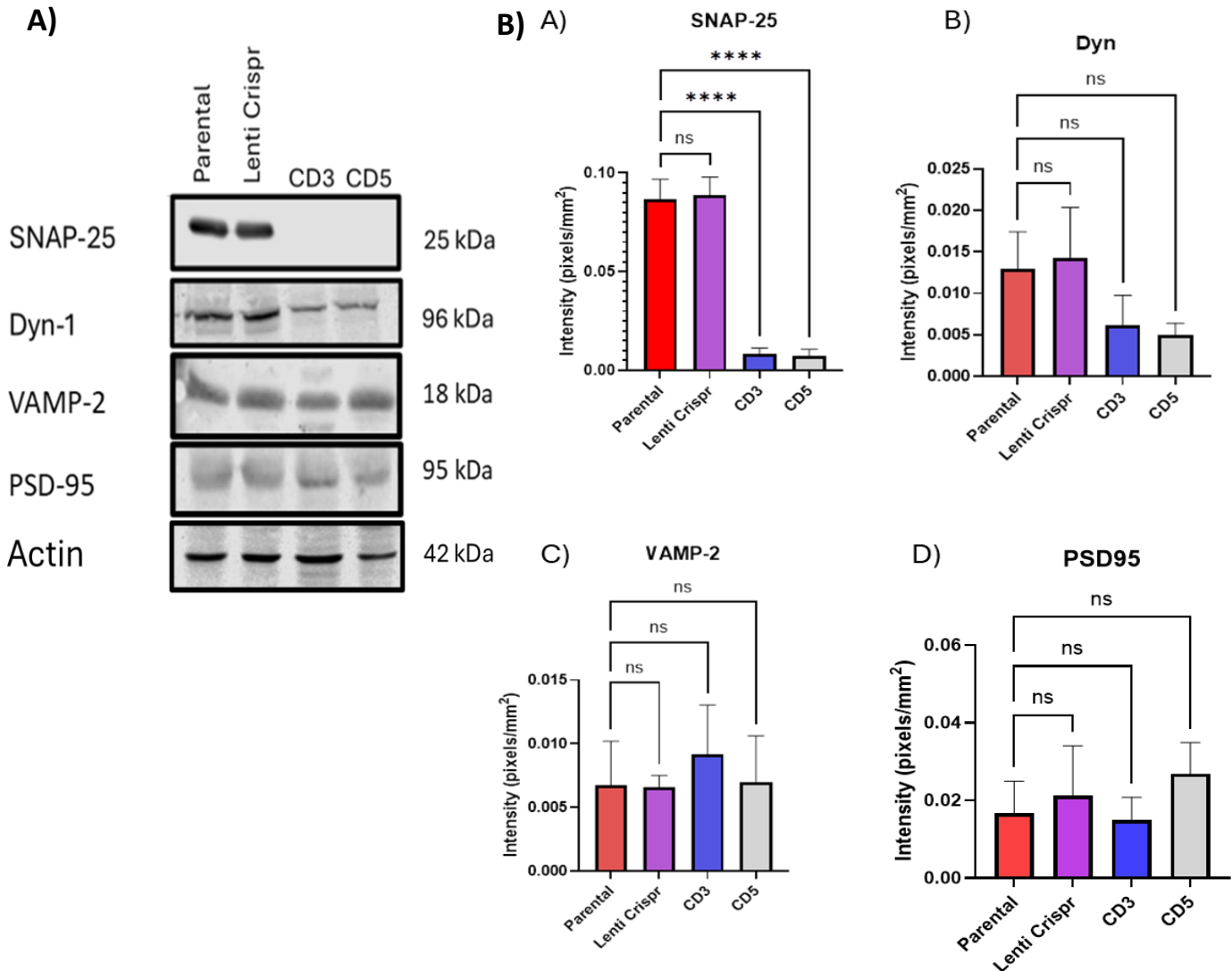


Figure 5.7: CSP α -deficient lines CD3 and CD5 have a selective reduction of CSP α clients. Blotting of CSP α client proteins SNAP-25 and Dynamin-1 with the quantified percentage reduction of expression, synaptic markers VAMP-2 and PSD95 in Parental, Lenti CRISPR and CSP α -deficient cells. A) Representative blots of CSP α clients and synaptic proteins. B) Quantification in SNAP-25, C) Dyn-1, D) VAMP-2 and E) PSD-95 expression in Parental, Lenti CRISPR, CD3, and CD5 cells, normalised to loading control Actin. A comparison of relative intensities between the Parental and each of the transfected conditions was made using ANOVA, with significance denoted as * $p < 0.05$, **** $P < 0.0001$, $N = 3$.

5.3.5.2 Immunostaining of SNAP-25 in CSP α -deficient cells

To complement the western blots for CSP α clients, I subjected the Parental and the Lenti CRISPR controls and CD3 and CD5 cells to immunodetection staining for SNAP-25. Staining was carried out in both differentiated (Data not shown) and undifferentiated Parental and Lenti CRISPR cells, and the undifferentiated CSP α -deficient cells (See Section 5.3.3) (Figure 5.8).

In the Parental and Lenti CRISPR cells, all cells expressed a uniform plasma membrane SNAP-25 stain (Figure 5.8). In the CSP α -deficient cells (CD3 and CD5), a mosaic appearance of the SNAP-25 immunoreactivity was observed. The majority of cells had no SNAP-25 stain, with a minority of cells expressing SNAP-25 at the plasma membrane with an associated intense staining at the growth cone. An even smaller proportion of cells expressed SNAP-25 at lower levels. The knockdown cells with faint immunoreactivity could potentially be suggestive of the cells still expressing one copy of CSP α .

In the Parental and the Lenti CRISPR cells, 100% of cells expressed CSP α , whilst within the CSP α -deficient cell lines, 12% of cells were observed to be expressing SNAP-25 by immunofluorescence staining, corresponding to a lack of immunoreactivity detectable by western blot (Figure 5.8).

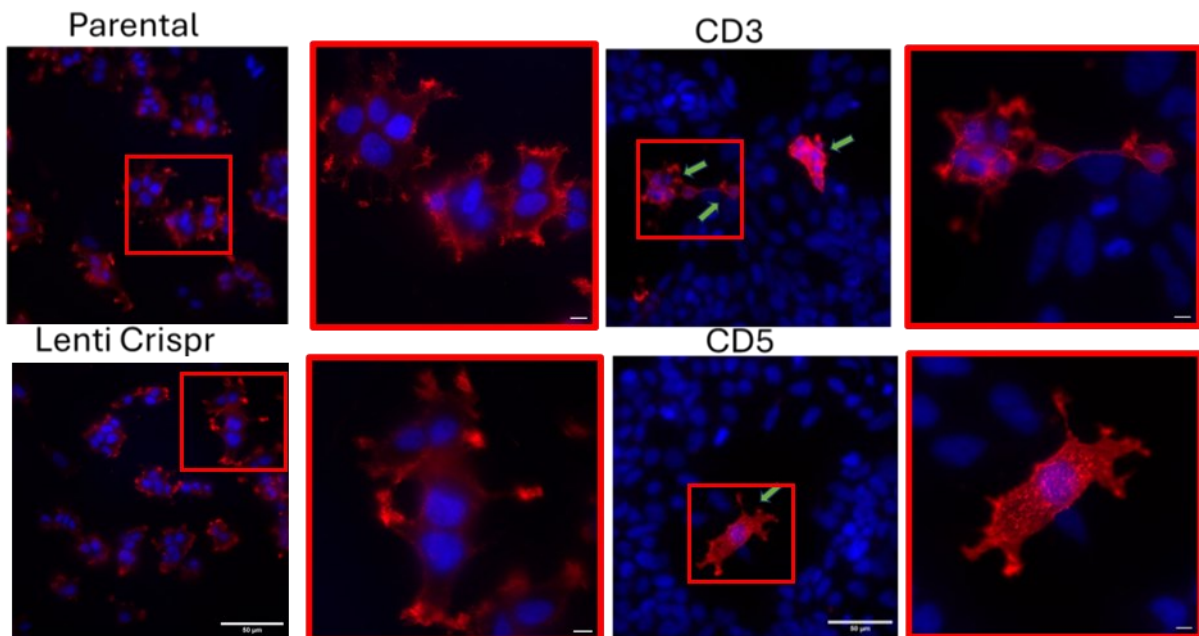


Figure 5.8: CRISPR CSP α -deficient PC12 cell lines have a reduction of CSP α client SNAP25. Parental, Lenti CRISPR, CD3 and CD5 cells were fixed, permeabilised and then probed for SNAP-25, represented in the red channel and Hoechst, represented in the blue channel. Scale bar 50 μ M.

Cells positive for SNAP-25 in Parental, Lenti CRISPR, CD3 and CD5 (Indicated with arrow heads) were formed in tight clusters, with individual cells having small nuclei. While cells where SNAP-25 was not detected in the CD3 and CD5 cell lines had larger nuclei, and a potentially more epithelial-like phenotype with flatter cell morphology (Figure 5.8).

5.3.5.3 Investigation into turnover of SNAP-25 in CSP α deficient cells

To determine if blocking the proteasome rescues the loss of SNAP-25 observed in the knockdown cells, Parental PC12 cells and the CSP α -deficient cells (CD3 and CD5) were treated with proteasome inhibitor MG-132 (10mM) for 2, 6 and 8 hours. Cells were treated at these time points as generally proteasome inhibition is not evident before 3 hours which the 2 hour time point aligns with whilst protein accumulation is usually present within 4-8 hours without an effect on cell viability which the 6 and 8 hours time points fall within (Tarjányi et al., 2013, Tarjányi et al., 2022).

SNAP-25 is expected to be increasingly ubiquitin-conjugated in the PC12 CSP α -deficient model compared to the Parental line. We would hypothesise that in CSP α -deficient cells, where we see a reduction in SNAP-25, when treated with MG-132, we would see a restoration in SNAP-25 protein levels due to a block of its UPS degradation.

Immunofluorescence staining and western blotting were carried out to determine if there was a restoration of SNAP-25 levels. An increase of SNAP-25 was observed via western blot in the Parental line treated with MG-132 at each of the time points (2 hr and 6hr data not shown), but the reduction in SNAP-25 in the CSP α -deficient cells was not rescued, and no immunoreactivity for SNAP-25 was detected at any of the time points (Figure 5.9, A).

In the Parental cells, all cells had a plasma membrane-localised SNAP-25 immunoreactivity, which was unaltered in the cells treated with MG-132. In the untreated CSP α -deficient cells, few cells had a plasma membrane SNAP-25 stain consistent with the description of these cells above (See Section 5.3.5.2). In the CSP α -deficient cells, SNAP-25 immunoreactivity in the MG132-treated cells revealed a captured intracellular speckled staining. This immunoreactivity was present in the face of no clear plasma membrane staining. This implies SNAP-25 accumulates in a new compartment when the proteasome is blocked and/or the steady state capture of a distinct compartment that arises in the face of CSP α knockdown. This speckled stain was present in about 30% of cells (Figure 5.9, B).

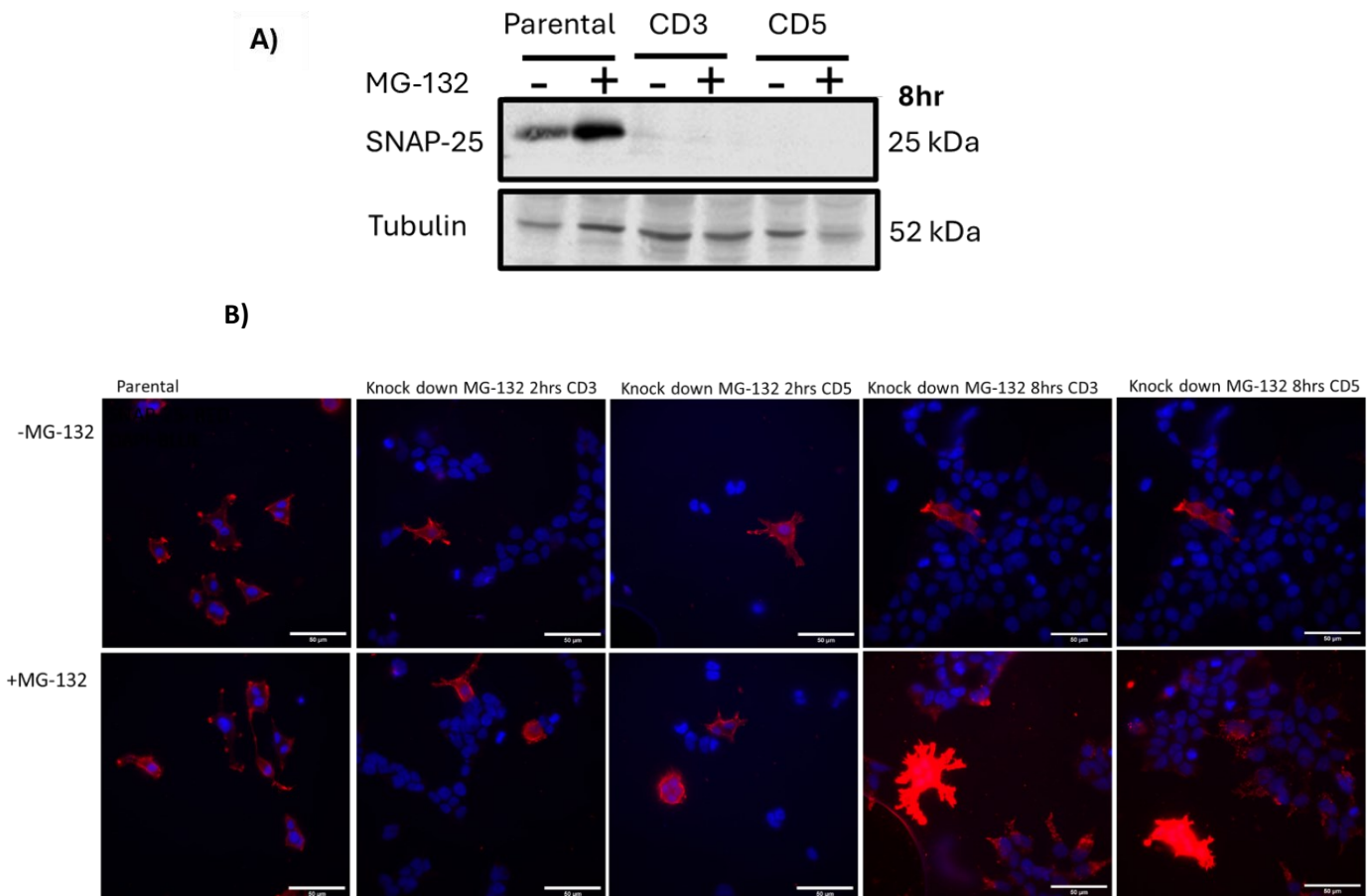


Figure 5.9: Blocking the Proteasome does not restore SNAP-25 protein levels in PC12

CSP α -deficit CD3 and CD5 cells

Parental and PC12 CSP α -deficient CD3 and CD5 cells were plated, then treated with MG-132 (10 μ M) for 8 hours. A) 20 μ g of lysate was resolved by SDS-PAGE and labelled with SNAP-25 and Tubulin antibodies to determine SNAP-25 levels. B) Representative immunofluorescent staining of SNAP-25, cells were fixed, permeabilised, and immunolabelled for SNAP-25 (red) and with Hoechst (blue), N=3.

5.3.6 Preliminary investigation into alternative protein removal pathways

To determine if the intracellular SNAP-25 staining observed upon the MG-132 treatment was likely to be processed by an alternative removal pathway, western blotted extracts with LC-3 (autophagy), LAMP-2 (lysosomes) and RAB7 9 (late endosome) Appendix Figure C.3. These blots suggested that there was no upregulation of these pathways in the CSP α -deficient lines in comparison to the parental controls. Future work would need to be carried out to aid in our understanding of what these SNAP-25 structures formed in the presence of the proteasomal blocker MG132 (Figure 5.9).

5.3.7 Evidence of proteomic disorder in the CSP α -deficient cells

In the CSP α $-/-$ mouse brain, there is increased ubiquitination of selective proteins such as SNAP-25 (Sharma et al., 2012a) but there is no overall increase in ubiquitination. To determine if there was evidence of altered proteostasis in the CSP α -deficient PC12 lines more widespread than CSP α 's clients, Coomassie staining was undertaken for total protein and blotting was undertaken for ubiquitin.

Lysates from the Parental and the CSP α -deficient samples were run on an SDS-PAGE gel and stained with colloidal Coomassie and silver stain to allow for identification of changes in global protein between the samples (Figure 5.10, A). Line scans of both the Coomassie and the Silver stained (data not shown) display a consistent pattern across all of the samples. This suggests that overall, there isn't a global difference in the proteome between the Parental and CSP α -deficient cell lines. However, further close visual inspection identified changes in some of the major proteins stained by this approach across distinct sample types. The position of the consistent differences across replicated samples are marked by an asterisk (Figure 5.10, A and summarised Table 5.1).

Additionally, the samples were resolved for ubiquitin immunoreactivity; the CSP α -deficient samples had increased levels of immunoreactivity to ubiquitin when compared to the Parental control. Ubiquitin levels in CD3 were 14-fold higher and in CD5 were 8-fold higher than in the Parental lines (Figure 5.10, C) which is suggestive of a change in both cellular proteostasis and the overall state of the cell.

When lysates from the Parental and the CSP α -deficient lines were run on a western blot, it was noted that in the CSP α -deficient lines, there was the presence of non-specific staining by secondary antibodies in the stacking gel, which isn't present in the Parental line. This may be suggestive of the presence of aggregating or misfolding proteins that do not enter the separating gel in these lines (Figure 5.10, B).

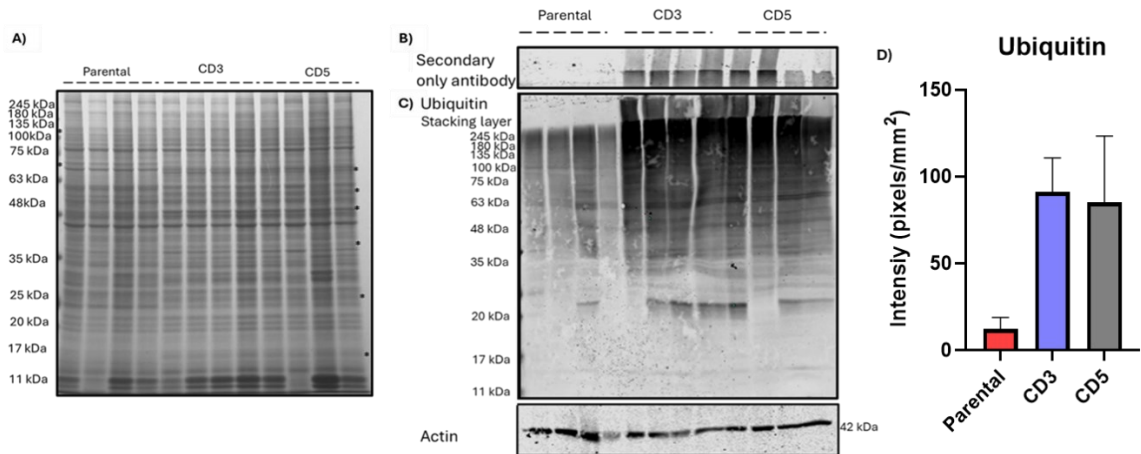


Figure 5.10: Investigation of global protein expression and relative ubiquitination in the PC12

CSP α -deficient CD3 and CD5 cells. A) Coomassie staining of the protein lysates. The major banding is similar between samples. Asterisks depict where replicated differentials are visualised in the Parental and PC12 CSP α -deficient CD3 and CD5 cells. B) Stacking gel with high molecular weight, potentially disordered protein present in PC12 CSP α -deficient CD3 and CD5 cells. C) and D) Ubiquitin levels in PC12 CSP α -deficient CD3 and CD5 lines are higher than in the Parental PC12 lines, N=4.

Table 5.1: Description of observed differentials between Parental and PC12 CSP α deficit CD3 and CD5 cells lysis run on a Coomassie gel.

Molecular weight	Appearance/ disappearance in CRISPR lines	Description
100 kDa	The upper band increases in intensity, and the disappearance of a lower band	The upper band becomes more defined, and the disappearance of a clear band below
~63-65 kDa	Disappearance	Doublet in Parental samples resolved to a less defined triplet in the CRISPR lines
~50 kDa	Appearance	Appearance of an undefined band
48 kDa	Appearance	Appearance of a defined band

~37 kDa	Appearance	Appearance of an undefined band
~25 kDa	Appearance	Appearance of an undefined band
17 kDa	Appearance	Appearance of a defined band
11 kDa	Differential expression of two bands across repeats of both the Parental and the CRISPR lines.	

5.3.8 Label-free proteomics to determine global changes in the CSP α -deficient cell lines

Due to the changes in the phenotype of the CSP α -deficient cells and unexpected changes identified by western blotting, whole cell proteomics was carried out. As the Parental and the Lenti CRISPR lines are alike in terms of phenotype and expression of CSP α , and its clients, proteomics were carried out comparing the Parental line to the two CSP α -deficient lines, CD3 and CD5.

Coomassie staining of all the pellet and supernatant (Methods section 2.8.2, Figure 2.12) confirmed that the majority of proteins present in the total cellular pool were present in the supernatant, suggesting good coverage of the total protein present in the samples. However, this analysis showed there is some differential in the pellet fraction within the same cell extraction, particularly at low molecular weights. This potential confound is highlighted by a triplet in the Parental line, which resolves to a doublet in both of the CSP α -deficient lines. At around 11 kDa, there is a large band inconsistently present in some samples of both the Parental and the CSP α -deficient lines, which may be due to slight differences in solubilisation.

Peptides in the Parental, CD3 and CD5 identified by label-free mass-spectroscopy were analysed by PEAKS software (Methods section 2.8), which allowed for raw mass spectroscopy spectra to be analysed to identify candidate peptides. These were iterated through de novo sequencing, PEAKS DB (database searching)-based protein identification, PEAKS PTM (posttranslational modification) analysis, and a SPIDER homology search to identify the most likely peptide sequence that matches the given spectra.

This proteomic approach revealed a total of 412 proteins were altered between the Parental and the CPS α -deficient PC12 cell lines (CD3 and CD5), of which 253 proteins were upregulated and 159 proteins downregulated (see Appendix section C.4 for the full list).

5.3.8.1 Quantification and visualisation of Mass spectroscopy proteomic data

The heat map (Figure 5.11) displays the relative protein abundance in the control (Parental) and experimental conditions (CD3 and CD5) of proteins that passed the quality control filter, which excludes those designated peptides that fail to cross thresholds that resolve quality and quantity filtering (Section 2.8). The relative abundance in each condition is with respect to the abundance in the reference condition (Figure 5.11, Sample 1, first column Parental).

Altered proteins are clustered if they exhibit a similar expression across the samples, with the hierarchical clustering generated using a neighbour-joining algorithm with a Euclidean distance similarity measurement of log₂ of the protein ratio of each sample relative to the average ratio.

The Heatmap displays individual proteins as either red, indicating upregulation, or green, indicating downregulation relative to Sample 1 (Figure 5.11, first column: Parental). The brighter the red or the green of a cell, the greater the fold change in the relative protein expression between the Parental and CPS α -deficient cell lines.

The alterations were consistent between repeats of the Parental, CD3 and CD5 cell lines. The CSP α -deficient cell lines were more alike to each other than the Parental and largely had similar changes in protein expression. In the case of CD3 sample 1 and for CD5 sample 2, there appears to be some disparity compared to the other samples of the same lines; an average of all samples in a group was taken in the final comparison of Parental to CSP α -deficient lines to assay overall relative protein change.

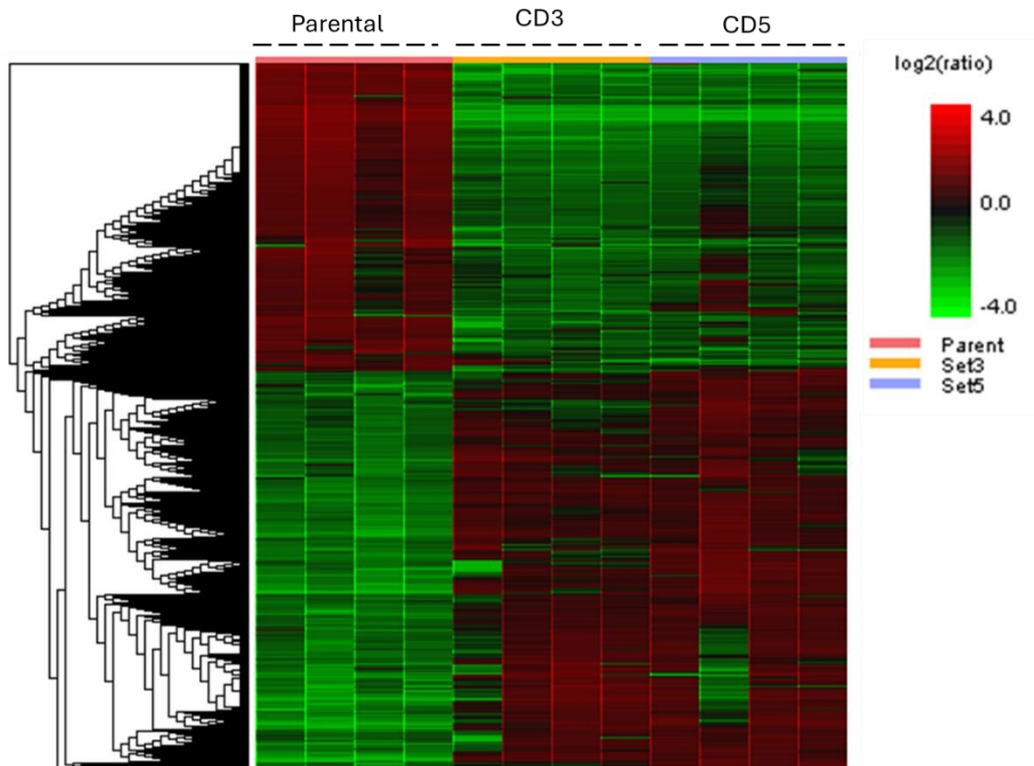


Figure 5.11: Quantitative mass spectroscopy profiling of PC12 Parental and PC12 CSP α deficit CD3 and CD5 cells

Protein profile heatmap cell colour represents the $\log_2(\text{ratio})$ to the average abundance across different samples from four independent Parental, and PC12 CSP α deficit CD3 and CD5 cells.

5.3.8.2 Statistical significance of quantified protein alterations

For analysis of the differential protein expression and visualisation on a volcano plot, the Parental line samples were grouped as control, and both the CSP α -deficient lines, CD3 and CD5, were grouped as the experimental group

The volcano plot plots significance versus fold-change of a quantified protein (Figure 5.12). The plot combines statistical significance with the magnitude of the change to enable visual identification of those data points that display a large magnitude change and are also statistically significant. The horizontal broken grey lines mark the selected significance threshold, set to 20, whilst the vertical broken grey line marks the selected fold change threshold set to 2-fold (Figure 5.12).

These lines separate the graph into regions, of which data points located in the top-right (Red) and the top-left (green) sections correspond to proteins which are both statistically significant (see

section 2.8.7.1) and beyond the set fold change threshold (see section 2.8.7.2), and as such represent proteins which are most likely to be quantifiably important.

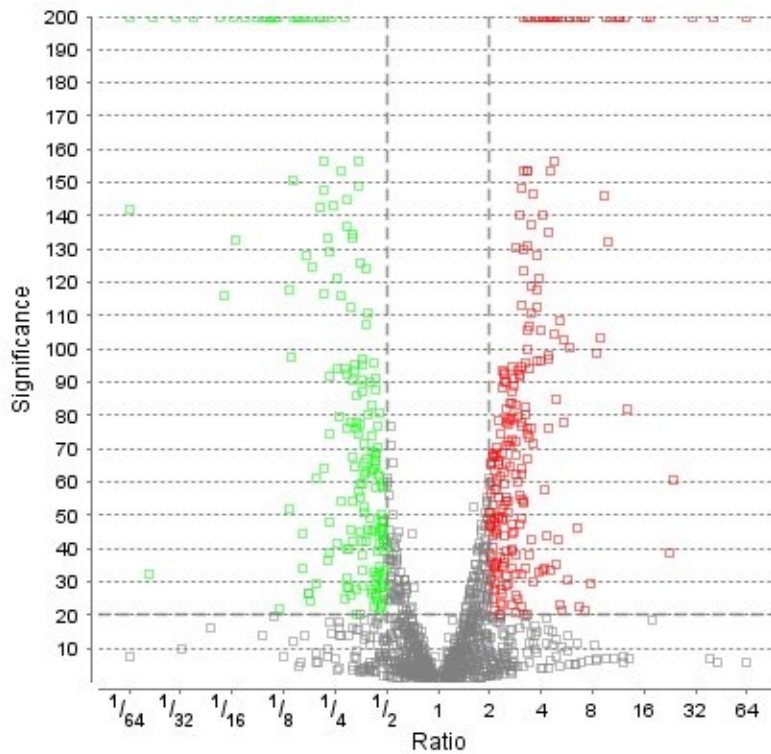


Figure 5.12: CRISPR Cas knockout of CSP α leads to alteration of the expression of a large number of proteins. Volcano plot for 2-fold down (green) and up (red) expressed proteins in CRISPR Cas CSP α -deficient PC12 cells compared to Parental control cells.

77 proteins had a 2-fold or greater alteration and had the maximum significance of 200, a further 61 with a significance between 100-200 and the remaining 274 proteins had a significance of between 20.10-100.

All proteins with a 2-fold or greater relative change and with a significance of between 20.10 and 200 were taken forward for subsequent interrogation and pathway analysis.

5.3.9 Investigation into GO term enrichment of up- and down-regulated proteins in CSP α -deficient PC12 cells

Initially, up- and down-regulated proteins were manually reviewed for their GO terms, for terms associated with biological functions that were of interest to investigate in the context of CSP α deficiency. Alterations in Heat shock proteins were investigated as CSP α is a member of the Heat shock protein family, and in the CSP α $-/-$ mouse, other Heat shock proteins are altered. CSP α

was the only member of the Heat shock proteins to be downregulated, whilst nine other heat shock proteins were upregulated in CD3 and CD5.

As blotting for ubiquitin showed an increase in the CD3 and CD5 lines, GO terms for ubiquitin associated proteins were investigated. Sixteen proteins were identified as being altered between the Parental and CD lines of these E3 ubiquitin ligases, hydrolases, modifiers and a proteasome regulatory subunit were altered. This could suggest that an upregulation of E3 ubiquitin ligase, a loss of hydrolases or a loss of regulation could all contribute to an overall increase in ubiquitin levels in the CSP α -deficient lines.

Lastly, due to the observed quantifiable increase in the cellular proliferation rate of the CSP α deficient (CD3 and CD5) cell lines, proteins involved in proliferation were investigated. Six proteins were identified, which could, in part, lead to a dysregulation of cell proliferation in the CD lines (Table 5.2).

Table 5.2: Selected GO terms investigated due to the changes in phenotype observed in the CSP α -deficient lines, with the number of up- and down-regulated proteins with each GO term.

GO term	Number of proteins with GO term	
	Up regulated	Down regulated
Heat Shock Proteins- protein folding: GO:0031072	9	1
Ubiquitin associated: GO:0043130, GO:0016567, GO:0004842, GO:0061630	7	9
Proliferation and cell cycle GO:0008283, GO:0042127, GO:0051726	3	3

To unbiasedly identify enrichment in GO terms, both the up- and down-regulated lists of proteins were input into the Panther classification knowledgebase, which uses fold enrichment as a statistical measure to indicate the degree to which a specific phenotype is overrepresented in a particular gene or protein set. A fold enrichment of greater than one indicates overrepresentation, whilst greater than 100 indicates a strong overrepresentation.

Table 5.3 depicts the 20 most enriched GO terms for both the up- and down-regulated gene terms associated with the proteins identified as altered in the proteomics.

For down-regulated terms, two terms, regulation of late endosome to lysosome transport and the negative regulation of high voltage-gated calcium channel activity, have a fold enrichment of greater than 100. Both of these terms may be rationalised in terms of being affected by a loss of CSP α . A dysregulation of lysosomal homeostasis has previously been suggested in Neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis caused by a lack of functional CSP α (Lee et al., 2022) Whilst CSP α has been shown to interact with N and P/Q type calcium channels (Ruiz et al., 2008, Lopez-Ortega et al., 2017). The rest of the top twenty include biosynthesis and metabolic processes (Table 5.3). which likely in part explains the alteration in proliferation rate observed (Section 5.3.3.1)

The upregulated terms have no enriched terms with a fold enrichment of greater than 100. The 20 GO biological processes that have the greatest fold enrichment are diverse, including terms corresponding to the introduction of the viral genome, regulation of signalling, metabolism, RNA localisation and chaperone-mediated protein folding (Table 5.3).

The GO term analysis revealed that the most upregulated GO terms involved the introduction of Viral components due to the use of a lentiviral plasmid to generate the CRISPR PC12 cell line (Table 5.3). Whilst using the Lenti Viral system allowed for stable knockdown of CSP α , using a viral system led to viral components being present in the cellular model, which can lead to insertional mutagenesis, whereby the vector may disrupt nearby genes, may cause aberrant splicing, cytotoxicity due to high viral loads or selection stress due to the requirement for the use of antibiotic resistance marker G418 (Shaw and Cornetta, 2014). Upregulation of GO terms relating to chaperone-mediated protein folding is expected since in response to the loss of one chaperone, other chaperone proteins are known to become upregulated (Saibil, 2013). Whilst the upregulation of signalling, metabolic pathways and RNA localisation, as well as the downregulation of biosynthesis and alternative metabolic processes, likely provides an explanation for the changes in cell states and phenotype observed and may be suggestive of a stressed cellular state.

Table 5.3 PANTHER Overrepresentation Test for enrichment of GO biological processes using Fisher's Exact. Displaying the top 20 enriched GO terms for the up- and down-regulated terms ranked by fold enrichment with corresponding raw P value and False Discovery Rate results for FDR P < 0.05.

Down regulation

Rank	GO biological process complete	Fold Enrichment	raw P value	FDR
1	Regulation of late endosome to lysosome transport	> 100	4.74E-05	5.92E-03
2	Negative regulation of high voltage-gated calcium channel activity	> 100	1.29E-06	4.52E-04
3	Glutamine catabolic process	96.5	1.42E-04	1.34E-02
4	Purine ribonucleoside diphosphate biosynthetic process	96.5	3.25E-08	2.59E-05
5	Purine nucleoside diphosphate biosynthetic process	96.5	3.25E-08	2.46E-05
6	Regulation of vacuolar transport	96.5	1.42E-04	1.33E-02
7	ADP biosynthetic process	86.85	3.20E-06	9.13E-04
8	Datp metabolic process	82.71	7.55E-08	4.75E-05
9	Isocitrate metabolic process	82.71	7.55E-08	4.56E-05
10	Negative regulation of hyaluronan biosynthetic process	72.37	2.82E-04	2.08E-02
11	Positive regulation of ryanodine-sensitive calcium-release channel Activity	62.03	1.11E-05	2.39E-03
12	Amyloid-beta clearance by transcytosis	62.03	1.11E-05	2.36E-03
13	Regulation of dopamine biosynthetic process	57.9	4.68E-04	3.02E-02
14	Adenine metabolic process	57.9	4.68E-04	3.01E-02

15	Purine deoxyribonucleoside triphosphate metabolic process	57.9	4.46E-07	1.87E-04
16	Ribonucleoside diphosphate biosynthetic process	52.64	6.97E-07	2.77E-04
17	Alditol biosynthetic process	48.25	6.99E-04	3.98E-02
18	Glutamate biosynthetic process	48.25	6.99E-04	3.97E-02
19	Asparagine metabolic process	48.25	6.99E-04	3.95E-02
20	UDP-alpha-D-glucose metabolic process	48.25	6.99E-04	3.94E-02

Upregulation

Rank	GO biological process complete	Fold Enrichment	Raw P value	FDR
1	Viral penetration into host nucleus	91.12	1.20E-04	9.39E-03
2	Entry of viral genome into host nucleus through nuclear pore complex via importin	91.12	1.20E-04	9.34E-03
3	Negative regulation of nitrosative stress-induced intrinsic apoptotic signalling pathway	91.12	1.20E-04	9.30E-03
4	Regulation of nitrosative stress-induced intrinsic apoptotic signalling pathway	91.12	1.20E-04	9.25E-03
5	Dendritic transport of messenger ribonucleoprotein complex	68.34	5.18E-06	5.84E-04
6	Glutamine catabolic process	60.74	3.57E-04	2.19E-02
7	Intracellular transport of virus	60.74	3.57E	2.19E
8	Telomere maintenance via semi-conservative replication	60.74	04	02

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9	Positive regulation of establishment of protein localization to telomere	60.74	3.57E-04	2.17E-02
10	Transport of virus	60.74	3.57E-04	2.16E-02
11	Phosphocreatine metabolic process	45.56	7.09E-04	3.93E-02
12	Phosphagen metabolic process	45.56	7.09E-04	3.91E-02
13	Snorna localization	45.56	7.09E-04	3.90E-02
14	Mitochondrial translational elongation	45.56	7.09E-04	3.88E-02
15	Phosphagen biosynthetic process	45.56	7.09E-04	3.87E-02
16	Positive regulation by virus of viral protein levels in host cell	45.56	7.09E-04	3.86E-02
17	Phosphocreatine biosynthetic process	45.56	7.09E-04	3.84E-02
18	Positive regulation of nuclease activity	39.05	4.43E-05	3.86E-03
19	Chaperone mediated protein folding independent of cofactor	34.17	7.02E-05	5.86E-03
20	Positive regulation of Telomerase RNA localization to Cajal body	30.37	1.04E-04	8.40E-03

5.3.10 Pathway analysis of proteomic changes in CSP α -deficient cells












The STRING database, which compiles and integrates protein-protein association data, was used to visualise protein association clustering of the proteins altered in the label-free proteomics.

Of the 412 proteins altered in the label-free mass spectroscopy, 159 downregulated and 253 upregulated were mapped with the STRING network database to allow for clustering analysis. In the downregulated string clustering analysis, we see the pathway with the most downregulated members is the citrate acid cycle and regulation of calcium ions into the cytosol (Figure 5.13). In the upregulation string clustering analysis, we see that the most upregulated pathways are splicing factors, followed by protein folding factors (Figure 5.16).

5.3.10.1 Pathway analysis of downregulated proteins

The most downregulated clusters included components of isocitrate metabolism, 2oxocarboxylic acid metabolism and the Citric acid cycle (TCA cycle), which are three interconnected metabolic pathways that are involved in energy production and biosynthesis (Figure 5.13).

A)

color	cluster Id	gene count	description
	Cluster 1	<u>5</u>	- 1. Isocitrate metabolism 2. 2-Oxocarboxylic acid metabolism 3. Citric acid cycle (TCA cycle)
	Cluster 2	<u>5</u>	Regulation of release of sequestered calcium ion into cytosol by sarcoplasmic retic...
	Cluster 3	<u>4</u>	RHO GTPases activate IQGAPs
	Cluster 4	<u>4</u>	Translation initiation complex formation
	Cluster 5	<u>3</u>	U1 snRNP
	Cluster 6	<u>3</u>	- 1. 1-alkyl-2-acetyl-glycerophosphocholine esterase complex 2. Platelet-activating factor acetyltransferase activity
	Cluster 7	<u>3</u>	UBX domain, and UFD1-NPL4 complex
	Cluster 8	<u>3</u>	- 1. TBC/RABGAPs 2. Mixed, incl. Golgi vesicle fusion to target membrane, and GDP/GTP exchange factor Sec2p
	Cluster 9	<u>3</u>	Early phagosome
	Cluster 10	<u>3</u>	Podosome
	Cluster 11	<u>3</u>	Retromer complex

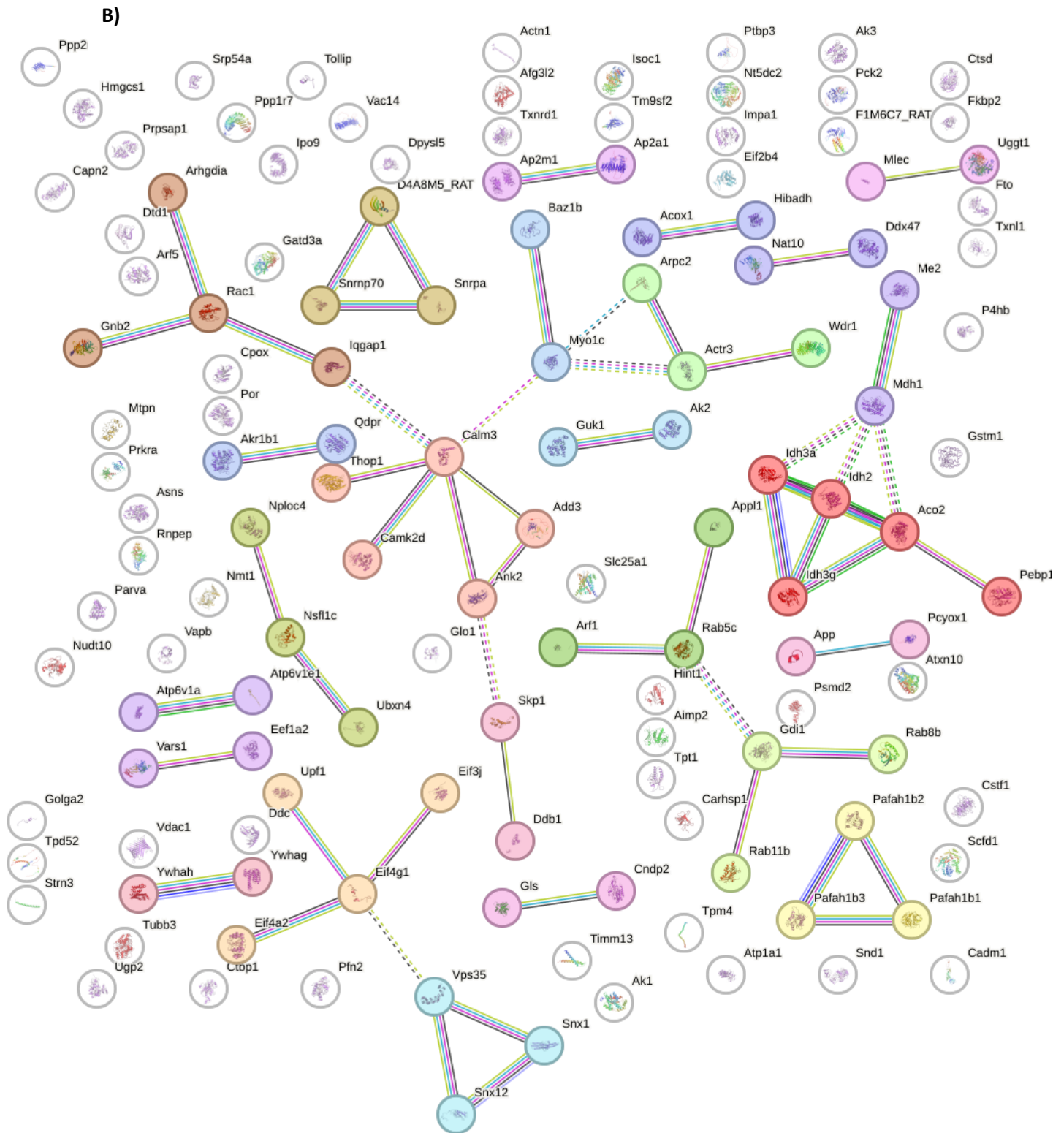


Figure 5.13: STRING clustering of down-regulated alterations between Parental and PC12 CSP α -deficit CD3 and CD5 cells with the high-confidence evidence-based analysis applied. A) Tabulation of down-regulated clusters altered in the PC12 CSP α -deficient CD3 and CD5 cells, with the number of members and cluster description and a schematic of STRING Pathway clusters for proteins down-

regulated in the CSP α -deficient lines. B) Graphical representation of STRING Clustering between down regulated proteins.

5.3.10.2 Pathway analysis of upregulated proteins

In the upregulated STRING analysis, the clusters largely fell into four Groups: 1. mRNA processing, 2. Protein folding, 3. DNA transcription, translation and processing and 4. Protein translocation (Figure 5.14).

The highest-ranking cluster with 28 members (Figure 5.13) was made up of mRNA splicing and spliceosome factors. This could be thought to be an unintended consequence of CRISPR Cas, which can induce off-target effects that impact mRNA splicing, exon skipping and alternative splicing (Mou et al., 2017, Chen et al., 2018, Zhang et al., 2020). Or it could be due to increased cellular stress (Biamonti and Caceres, 2009, Cui et al., 2024)

In addition to the highest-ranked cluster, other clusters ranked in the top ten also involved the regulation of RNA. The third most enriched cluster consists of RNA-binding proteins involved in promoting mRNA stability and preventing its degradation. The fourth was formed of the preribosome and DEAD/DEAH box proteins involved in the unwinding and rearrangement of RNA structures. Whilst Cluster 10 was formed of the supra-spliceosomal complex and proteins containing a double-stranded RNA binding motif.

The second most up-regulated cluster was protein folding and unfolded protein binding. This is expected due to CSP α 's chaperoning role of binding to unfolded proteins and the precedent of other chaperone binding proteins to be up regulated upon the loss of one member (Zhang et al., 2012).

Four clusters largely group into upregulation of DNA processing, including cluster 5, Nuclear DNA replication, cluster 6, formation of the ternary complex and 43 complex, cluster 7, TP53 regulates transcription of DNA repair genes and RNA polymerase II transcription elongation and cluster 11, the Krüppel-associated box category of transcriptional repression domains.

Lastly, both Cluster 9 Nucleocytoplasmic carrier activity and Cluster 12 protein targeting to the mitochondrion and translocation are involved in the transport of protein around the cell.

All four of these groups can be upregulated during cellular stress, including mRNA splicing and DNA processing to facilitate repair and maintain genome stability, which is critical for adapting gene expression during cellular stress to maintain cellular homeostasis (Naro et al., 2015, Ainslie et al., 2015, Wickramasinghe and Venkitaraman, 2016). Similarly, an increase in unfolded protein binding

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and increased protein translocation can also be a consequence of increased cellular stress in an attempt to maintain homeostasis (Kang et al., 2006, Read and Schröder, 2021).

The last cluster, cluster 8, alpha-amino acid biosynthesis, may still be altered due to overall cellular stress as it is an adaptive response that is seen to be altered during the ER stress response, triggered by protein misfolding (Gonen et al., 2019).

A)













color	cluster Id	gene count	description
	Cluster 1	<u>28</u>	- 1. mRNA splicing, via spliceosome 2. Spliceosome
	Cluster 2	<u>11</u>	- 1. Protein folding 2. Unfolded protein binding
	Cluster 3	<u>11</u>	RNA recognition motif domain, and CRD-mediated mRNA stability complex
	Cluster 4	<u>8</u>	Mixed, incl. Preribosome, and DEAD/DEAH box helicase domain
	Cluster 5	<u>7</u>	Nuclear DNA replication
	Cluster 6	<u>6</u>	Formation of the ternary complex, and subsequently, the 43S complex
	Cluster 7	<u>6</u>	- 1. TP53 Regulates Transcription of DNA Repair Genes 2. RNA Polymerase II Transcription Elongation
	Cluster 8	<u>5</u>	Alpha-amino acid biosynthesis
	Cluster 9	<u>4</u>	- 1. Nucleocytoplasmic carrier activity 2. NLS-dependent protein nuclear import complex
	Cluster 10	<u>4</u>	- 1. Supraspliceosomal complex 2. Double-stranded RNA binding motif
	Cluster 11	<u>4</u>	Krueppel-associated box domain binding
	Cluster 12	<u>4</u>	- 1. Protein targeting to mitochondrion 2. Translocation

Figure 5.14: STRING clustering of up-regulated alterations between Parental and PC12 CSP α deficit CD3 and CD5 cells. A) Tabulation of upregulated clusters altered in the PC12 CSP α deficit CD3 and CD5 cells, with the number of members and cluster description. B) Schematic of STRING Pathway clusters for proteins upregulated in the CSP α -deficient lines.

For the upregulated STRING analysis, 40 clusters were identified, the highest ranked containing 28 proteins, down to only 1 member as such clusters with 3 or fewer members were excluded due to the thought that whilst STRING clusters with few members can be relevant the larger clusters generally offer more robust insights and due to the number of proteins altered it would be more appropriate to focus on larger clusters to help understand distinct characteristics in the dataset (Figure 5.14).

5.3.10.3 Verification of the reported downregulated protein

Western blotting was used to confirm the down and up-regulation of a selection of proteins identified by the label-free proteomics. Proteins were chosen based on their being part of the most enriched clusters from the pathway analysis, or due to being classified as proteins with a shared function as CSP α (in the case of the heat shock proteins) or due to being associated with unexpected GO terms such as translation and splicing factors. CSP α and EEF1 α 2 (translational factor) were tested as shown to be downregulated, and HSP90, HSP40 (Heat-shock family proteins), DJ-1 (One of only a few unregulated neuronal proteins) and SRSF3 (Splicing regulator) were tested as being upregulated. Whilst additional proteins should be validated, this selected list was validated due to time constraints and antibodies that were validated for use in PC12 cells.

CSP α immunoreactivity was present at 36 kDa in the parental and the Lenti CRISPR but was undetectable in the CD lines. Whilst the Eukaryotic translation elongation factor 1 alpha-2 (EEF1 α 2) was detected to be one of the proteins with the greatest downregulation in the CD lines compared to Parental in the label-free proteomics, which was validated by western blotting with strong immunoreactivity in the parental and Lenti CRISPR lines but only faint immunoreactivity in CD3 and unquantifiable expression in CD5. EEF1 α 2 is involved in protein synthesis, particularly in the transport of tRNAs (Andersen et al., 2003, Voorhees and Ramakrishnan, 2013, Dever et al., 2018). EEF1 α 2 has been associated with neurodevelopmental disorders, and disruptions in both EEF1 α 2 and CSP lead to neuronal dysfunction; as such, their functions could intersect during cellular stress (Davies et al., 2020, De Rinaldis et al., 2020, Mohamed and Klann, 2023) (Figure 5.15).

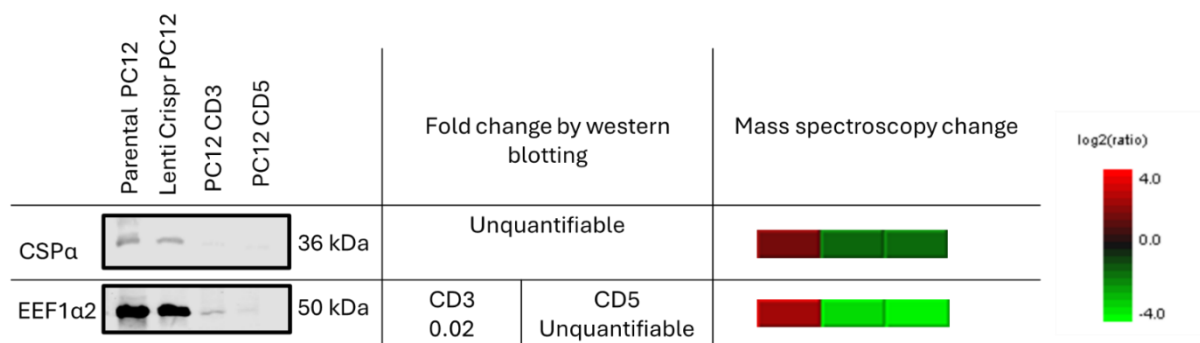


Figure 5.15: Validation of proteins downregulated due to the CSP α CRISPR knockdown in the PC12 cells, determined by Mass spectroscopy Column 1) 20ug of undifferentiated PC12 lysates of Parental, Lenti CRISPR and CD3 and CD5 (40 ug in the case of differentiated Parental and Lenti CRISPR lysate for CSP α) were run on an SDS-PAGE gel and labelled with CSP α and EEF1 α 2 antibodies by western blotting. Column 2) Loading was normalised to GAPDH or Actin, and changes were quantified. Column 3) log₂ (ratio) change determined by mass spectroscopy, N=3.

5.3.10.4 Verification of the reported upregulated proteins

The most enriched upregulated clusters were made up of mRNA splicing and spliceosome factors. Serine/Arginine-rich Splicing Factor 3 (Srsf3), which is involved in RNA splicing and mRNA export, was one of the proteins with the greatest changes determined by the label-free proteomics, and part of the highest-ranked cluster. Srsf3 was blotted for in the Parental, Lenti CRISPR and CSP α -deficient lines. Srsf3 was undetectable in the Parental and Lenti CRISPR lines but was upregulated in both the CD lines with immunoreactivity at 20 kDa (Figure 5.15). There have been no links between CSP α and SRSF3, yet both function to maintain cellular homeostasis (Xiong et al., 2022); as such, it is conceivable that loss of CSP α protein chaperoning ability, leading to cellular stress, could lead to an alteration in splicing factor expression and processes. If other splicing factors were affected in the same way, this may suggest that an upregulation in splicing may, in fact, be a consequence of CSP α loss, but further work would need to be undertaken for this to be confirmed.

The second most upregulated protein cluster was protein folding and unfolded protein binding, of which the Heat shock proteins made up a majority of the class. Whilst CSP α was downregulated, 9 other Heat shock proteins were upregulated. Including both HSP90 and HSP40, which was also observed by Western blot. Potentially suggestive of a compensatory effect of chaperone proteins as observed in other CSP α knockout models.

Neuronal-specific proteins overall were not observed to be upregulated in the CD3 and CD5 lines (Syngo analysis Appendix C.5). However, DJ-1 is one of the only neuronal-specific proteins that was upregulated in the CD lines by proteomics and western blot. It has a role in various cellular processes, including in oxidative stress and mitochondrial function (Junn et al., 2009).

DJ-1 upregulation has been implicated in Parkinson's disease, where it is triggered in response to oxidative stress (Ariga et al., 2013). Blotting for DJ-1 revealed it was undetectable in the Parental and the Lenti CRISPR line but immunoreactivity was present at 22 kDa in the CD3 and CD5 lines (Figure 5.16).

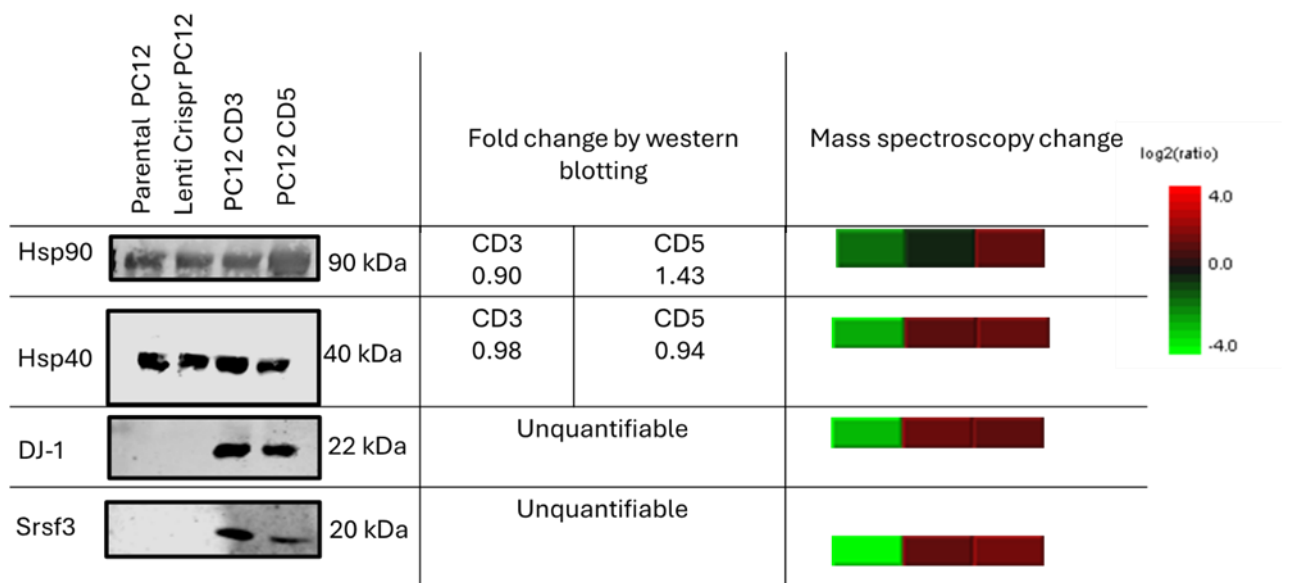


Figure 5.16: Validation of proteins upregulated due to the CSP α CRISPR knockdown in the PC12 cells, determined by Mass spectroscopy Column 1) 20ug of undifferentiated PC12 lysates of Parental, Lenti CRISPR and CD3 and CD5 cells were run on an SDS-PAGE gel and labelled with antibodies by western blotting for upregulated proteins. Column 2) Loading was normalised to GAPDH or Actin, and changes were quantified. Column 3) log₂ (ratio) change determined by mass spectroscopy, N=3.

The fact that Parental and Lenti CRISPR appear unaltered in both the down- and upregulated proteins that were blotted for suggests these changes are likely due to the CSP α deficiency and not due to the presence of the CRISPR Cas machinery.

5.4 Discussion

5.4.1 Summary

Here, I have generated two CSP α -deficient PC12 lines using CRISPR Cas technology with both expected and unexpected consequences for cellular proteostasis. In addition to a downregulation in the levels of CSP α and its clients' SNAP-25 and Dynamin-1, it was also observed that cells proliferated at an increased rate and lost their ability to differentiate upon stimulation with neurotrophins. Increased levels of ubiquitination and altered proteostasis were also observed, suggestive of the generation of a stressed cellular state.

Label-free proteomic data obtained from comparison of the Parental and CSP α -deficient cell lines identified changes in the relative expression of 412 proteins. To help refine understanding, I performed bioinformatics and used two approaches 1) GO term enrichment and 2) Network association of the altered proteins. This elucidated biological pathways and mechanisms that are altered in a PC12 CSP α -deficient environment

This revealed both expected and unexpected altered pathways that signified stress, translation, splicing, regulation of late endosomal to lysosomal transport and regulation of calcium channel activity in the face of the CSP α modulation of cell phenotype. These results are surprising and provide new insights into the additional roles of CSP α . In particular, they associate CSP α with having functional consequences on the proliferating cell state. However, further studies would be required to confirm these findings and determine the cause of the difference observed between these PC12 and other pre-mitotic cell models and CSP α knockout mouse, fly and neuronal models.

5.4.2 Observed changes in phenotype in CSP α -deficient PC12 cells

The generation of two lines from two separate guides that produced the same observed phenotype and the fact that the Lenti CRISPR control is phenotypically the same as the Parental line is reassuring that the changes seen are due to the targeted knockout of CSP α and not an indirect effect of the CRISPR Cas or off-target effects (Section 5.3.3). It was suggested that a possible additional interpretation for the unexpected phenotype changes observed could be due to infection of another cell type. This was investigated by amplifying and sequencing SNAP-25 the knockdown lines (Figure 5.3) with the sequence of both corresponding to the Rat sequence which differs from Human which rules out contamination from lines such as Hela and HEK293 cells. This and the presence of no other Rat cell lines in the facility provides support for the cell lines likely being of PC12 origin.

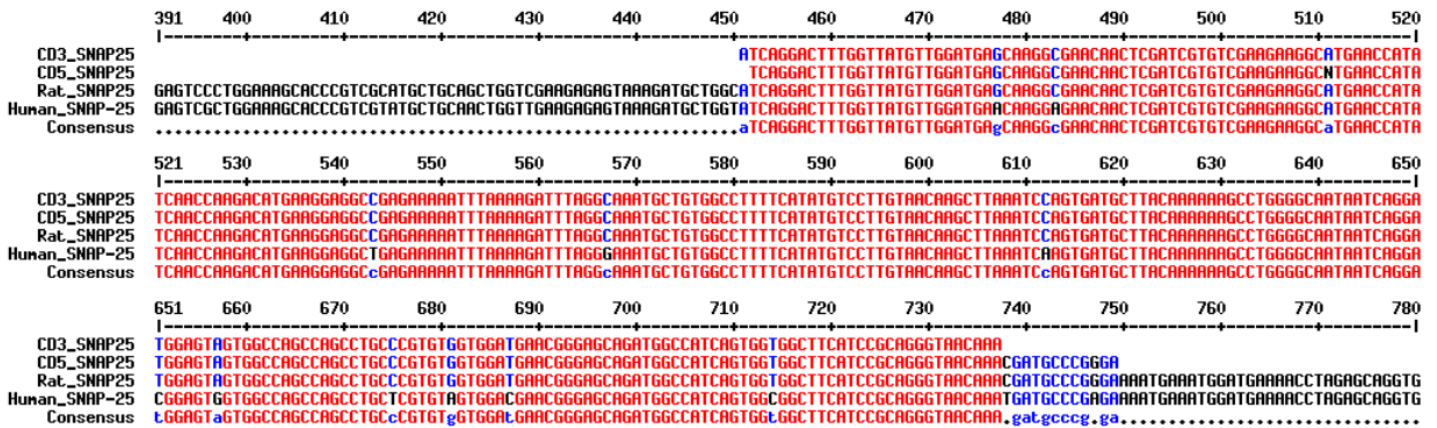


Figure 5.17: Both CD3 and CD5 SNAP-25 sequences align to RAT SNAP-25. A region of SNAP-25 was amplified from both CD3 and CD5 and sent for Sanger sequencing. The sequences were then aligned to both Rat and Human SNAP-25 sequences with both aligning to the Rat sequences with no mismatches (one N-unread base in the case of CD5) but with multiple mismatches compared to the human sequence.

5.4.2.1 Alteration in Trk and EGF receptor expression in CSP α models

The most obvious ways that the controls and the CSP α -deficient cells differ are in their proliferative phenotypes (Figure 5.4) and their lack of ability to differentiate (Figure 5.5). This led to the investigation of Trk and EGF receptor expression levels (Figure 5.6) (Patapoutian and Reichardt, 2001). A reduction in TRK B in the CSP α -deficient model would suggest that not only does CSP α influence presynaptic neurotransmitter release via regulation of SNARE complex assembly, but it may also have a role in neurotrophin signalling or receptor maintenance. This could also be explained by the alteration in endosomal to lysosomal transport (Section 5.3.9), leading to an alteration in the way the TRK and EGF receptors are expressed, recycled and transduce signals (Chen et al., 2005, Moises et al., 22009, Sapmazand Erson-Bensan, 2023).

Blotting for TrkB, total TrK and EGFR in CSP α -/- mouse tissue revealed that in this model, there is no disruption in expression of these receptors. A caveat of this is that in the tissue, not all cell types may express CSP α , so an effect may be less evident. The fact that the expression of Trk and EGF receptors differs between the mouse tissue and in these two CSP α -deficient PC12 lines may be explained by the fact that there is mounting evidence that CSP α has cell-type specific functions (Section 5.3.4, Figure 5.6).

5.4.2.2 Loss of HSP40 proteins affecting the stability of other proteins

HSP40 chaperones have been shown to play a role in regulating the folding and stability of other receptors, such as the hERG Potassium Channels (Walker et al., 2010) and Androgen Receptor (Eftekharzadeh et al., 2019). A loss of CSP α in both this PC12 model and in CSP α $-/-$ mice has been shown to lead to an alteration in the expression of other HSP family members, which could lead to the dysregulation of chaperoning and improper folding of clients (Y.-Q. Zhang et al., 2012).

5.4.2.3 CSP α 's role in cellular proliferation

There is precedent for the removal of CSP α affecting cell proliferation in actively dividing cells. CSP α $-/-$ mouse hippocampal radial glia-like (RGL) neural stem cells, postnatally lose quiescence and experience a period of increased proliferation (Nieto-González et al., 2019). Work in culture led to the identification that in the absence of CSP α , led to the hyperactivation of the mechanistic target of rapamycin (mTOR) signalling pathway causing deregulation of neurogenesis (Nieto-González et al., 2019).

Whilst in lung adenocarcinoma, a highly malignant tumour with aberrantly activated EGFR signalling, CSP α acts as an oncogene, whereby overexpression promotes proliferation and migration. CSP α was shown to interact with EGFR via its cystine string domain, enhancing its endocytosis and recycling (Chen et al., 2025) this could potentially help to explain why we observe an increase in EGFR when we knock down CSP α . CSP α also binds to AP2A1, strengthening the EGFR interaction. AP2A1 inhibits proliferation by promoting a senescent state, and its knockdown has been observed to increase the proliferative capacity of cells (Chantachotikul et al., 2025). This is of interest as AP2A1 was noted to be downregulated in the label-free proteomics carried out here and is involved in the recruitment and activation of CSP α client DYN-1 to the site of vesicle formation during clathrin-mediated endocytosis (Fiuza et al., 2017). Finally, AP2 and α -synuclein have been shown to interact, regulating binding to synaptic membranes and it has been hypothesised that malfunction in α -synuclein could lead to a deficit in the initial stages of clathrin-mediated synaptic vesicle endocytosis, which affects synaptic viability (Vargas et al., 2025). This is of interest since mounting evidence links α -synuclein and CSP α (Wu et al., 2023, Caló et al., 2021) and the fact that expression of α -synuclein abolishes the lethality and neurodegeneration in CSP α $-/-$ mice, which has been in part explained by a partial restoration of SNARE complex levels and increased expression of HSC70 and HSP70 (Chandra et al., 2005) but it is feasible there could also be a link to AP2A1, Dyn-1 and clathrin-mediated synaptic vesicle endocytosis.

Whilst the observations of an upregulation of proliferation in the CSP α -deficient PC12 lines were unexpected in the context of CSP α as a presynaptic chaperone. In non-neuronal cell types, our findings, alongside Nieto-González et al demonstrate a cell-autonomous disruption of neurogenesis in the absence of CSP α (As introduced in section 1.5.10). This opens a new avenue to investigate the role of CSP α and highlights a link between receptor maintenance and signalling-dependent cascades resulting in hyperproliferation and a loss of neuronal differentiation upon its loss.

5.4.3 Proteomic investigation into the result of a knockdown of CSP α in the PC12 cells

Whilst 412 proteins were identified as being altered between the Parental and the CSP α deficient lines (Section 5.3.8), SNAP-25 and TrkB, which were identified as being reduced in the CSP α -deficient lines by western blot, were not identified as being altered in the proteomics (Figures 5.6 and 5.7). There are several potential reasons an expected protein may not be detected in the label-free mass spectroscopy readout. These include factors such as a protein's solubility, stability or amino acid composition; additionally, the size of the digested peptide can affect the ability to be effectively detected (Szabo and Janaky, 2015). Misfolding of proteins can also affect a protein's structure and properties, which can affect its digestion and the detection of the resulting peptide. In the case of SNAP25, palmitoylation, or potentially misfolded or aggregated SNAP-25 in the CSP α -deficient cells may affect the ability to be detected by mass spectroscopy (Greaves et al., 2010, Sharma et al., 2012). For proteins to be included in the label free mass spectroscopy analysis peptides of a certain protein had to be present in both the control (Parental) and the CSP α deficient lines, so there is the possibility that SNAP-25 and the Trks are present in such low levels in the CSP α deficient lines that they were excluded due to the presence of peptides not being above the limit of detection in all conditions.

5.4.3.1 Protein changes in CSP α deficiency determined by label-free proteomics

A total of 412 proteins were altered between the Parental and the CPS α -deficient PC12 cell lines, of which 159 proteins were down-regulated and 253 proteins up-regulated. Although this is a large-scale alteration, it is not without precedent. Work at the transcription level of CSP α knock-out synapses identified 1,772 differentially expressed genes (Wang et al., 2024). In this study, it was noted that there was a downregulation of neuronal clusters and in synapse organisation pathways with a decrease in synaptic density. The analysis here clearly identifies a loss of neuronal phenotype in a distinct context, as the neuronal and synaptic signature is reduced when levels of CSP α are reduced from an already low level in the parental cells. Leading to the loss of differentiation and

downregulation of synaptic signatures observed in the PC12 CD lines (Section 5.3.3, Appendix figure C.5), suggesting neuronal repression.

5.4.3.2 Comparison of proteomic readout with previous CSP α knockout studies

In a proteomic study carried out by Zhang et al in CSP α -/- synapses utilising DIGE (2D fluorescence Difference Gel Electrophoresis) and iTRAQ (Isobaric Tag for Relative and Absolute Quantitation), 1,500 proteins were identified in total. With 37 were downregulated more than 40% (Table 1.2 adapted from Zhang et al., 2012), and 22 proteins were verified by western blot. Of these 22, 13 were also identified as being altered in the label-free proteomics carried out here in the PC12 cells. The most downregulated group of proteins altered was the chaperones, which were also identified as being among the most altered in our proteomics (Section 5.3.10).

This suggests that an upregulation of the stress response is common in response to loss of CSP α in distinct contexts (Zhang et al., 2012).

5.4.3.3 GO term and pathway analysis of up and downregulated proteins in the CSP α deficient cells relating to an increase in proliferation

The pathways analysis revealed, unexpectedly, that the most upregulated pathways were the regulation of RNA splicing and spliceosome components (Figures 5.13 and 5.14). CSP α is involved in proteostasis and its knockout is likely to cause cellular stress, leading to activation of the UPR and Integrated Stress Response (ISR) pathways, as characterised by an upregulation of ubiquitin-related proteins. These pathways have been shown to induce proliferation and splicing, so it is possible that the splicing component upregulation is the result of activation of cellular stress and proliferation and not directly linked to CSP α . This is further supported by the fact that most of the up-regulated splicing-associated genes identified have been linked to proliferation. Generally, more splicing activity is seen in highly proliferating cell cultures due to splicing playing a role in regulating cell cycle progression (Bradley and Anczukow, 2023).

Alterations in transcription factors were also observed. An enrichment for E2F transcriptional factors in both the up- and down-regulated protein lists is also likely to be linked to the proliferative phenotype observed, since these factors regulate much of the cell cycle progression (Helin, 1998, Ren et al., 2002, DeGregori, 2002).

5.5 Future work

In addition to understanding the molecular CRISPR events in CD3 and attempting to understand the SNAP-25 structures generated in the presence of proteasomal blocker MG-132, as discussed above. Future work could be undertaken to understand the role a lack of CSP α has in cellular stress and PC12 differentiation. This may include attempting to rescue the loss of NGF responsiveness and carrying out further investigations into a potential link between CSP α and modulation and recycling of Trk and EGF receptors.

Chapter 6 General discussion and future directions

The issue of protein misfolding and proteostasis is crucial to cellular function and is often dysregulated in human diseases (Zheng et al., 2016; Cheon, Dean, and Chahrouh, 2019). The Cystine string protein- α has been well-characterised as a presynaptic co-chaperone, essential for the maintenance of synapses and presynaptic proteostasis (Chandra et al., 2005, Sharma et al., 2012, Sheng and Wu, 2012, Zhang et al., 2012). Here I have investigated CSP α to further our understanding of proteostasis using PC12 cells as a model system.

6.1 Summary of findings

The initial aim of this thesis, largely driven by existing evidence, was to investigate synaptic proteostasis using CSP α and its absence to identify proteins involved in the degradation of SNAP-25. This was done firstly by investigating potential E3 ligases involved in the ubiquitination of SNAP-25. This was achieved via a bioinformatics approach (Chapter 3) and experimentally using BioID protein proximity labelling and Myc immunoprecipitation approaches using a Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 construct as bait (Chapter 4). This identified an interaction between SNAP-25 and the E3 ubiquitin ligase Parkin.

Secondly, generating and characterising a CSP α -deficient PC12 cell model revealed that although the downstream effects on SNAP-25 protein expression were consistent with previously reported outcomes, the CRISPR-mediated knockdown in CSP α resulted in an unexpected dysfunctional differentiation and proliferation in the CSP α -deficient cells (Chapter 5).

Although initiated to investigate how CSP α deficiency couples to synaptic proteostasis, the production and characterisation of two CSP α -deficient PC12 cell lines opened up unexpected questions around molecular changes associated with CSP α deficiency. These provoked experiments utilising label-free proteomics to elucidate the mechanisms behind these unanticipated phenotypic changes. My study identifies a large number of differentially expressed proteins that signalled stress, translation and splicing in the face of the CSP α modulation of cell phenotype. My work coincides with increasing evidence that CSP α has celltype-specific functions that are implicated in proliferation and cancer-related changes that still require further study (Figure 6.3).

6.2 Investigation into candidate E3 ubiquitin ligases suggests an E3 ligase independent interaction between SNAP-25 and Parkin

Whilst it has been well documented that SNAP-25 is ubiquitinated and degraded in the absence of CSP α (Sharma *et al.*, 2012) at the conception of this work, no E3 ligase had been shown to ubiquitinate SNAP-25. As SNAP-25 and the SNARE complex are essential for presynaptic exocytosis, they are targets to inform on the role ubiquitination has at the synapse. We hypothesised that a specific E3 ubiquitin ligase responsible for targeting SNAP-25 for degradation in the absence of CSP α might be identified. Our multi-tiered strategy, incorporating bioinformatic prediction, BioID proximity labelling, and coimmunoprecipitation experiments, revealed evidence supporting a SNAP-25-Parkin protein interaction that seemed to occur independent of Parkin's intrinsic E3-ligase activity.

6.2.1 SNAP-25 and Parkin may interact in an E3 ligase-independent fashion

Parkin is a RING-between-RING E3 ligase (Beasley *et al.*, 2007). Mutations in the gene encoding Parkin are linked to familial Parkinson's disease (Dawson and Dawson, 2010) and it is involved in mitophagy, which is crucial for maintaining mitochondrial integrity (Riley *et al.*, 2013). At the centre of this function is the damage-dependent interaction of Parkin with the protein kinase PINK1 (Jin and Youle, 2012, Vincow *et al.*, 2013, Narendra and Youle, 2024). Parkin has other, less well-characterised roles, including a role in activating mitochondrial biogenesis (Shin *et al.*, 2011), regulating lipid metabolism (Kim *et al.*, 2011) and a potential role as a tumour suppressor (Viotti *et al.*, 2014, Rouland *et al.*, 2021, Xu *et al.*, 2014, Shires, Kitsis and Gustafsson, 2017).

In my work, Parkin was first predicted and then evidenced to interact with SNAP-25 (Chapter 3, Section 3.4.2.4). Interestingly, this interaction persisted even in the presence of a catalytically inactive Parkin mutant (C431S) (Section 4.4.12). The C431S mutation is located in the RING2 catalytic domain of Parkin (Iguchi *et al.*, 2013) (Figure 6.1). Parkin enables the ubiquitination of substrates by forming a ubiquitin-thioester bond on Cys-431. C431S impairs substrate ubiquitination by both causing atypical subcellular localisation, characterised by not translocating to the mitochondria following damage, and by irreversibly binding ubiquitin to Ser431 (Iguchi *et al.*, 2013, Zheng and Hunter, 2013). The C431S mutation doesn't diminish Parkin's ability to interact with Pink1, E2 ubiquitin-conjugating enzymes (UbcH7, UbcH8) and substrate protein Mfn2, due to these interactions relying on the non-catalytic domains of Parkin (Zheng and Hunter, 2013, Lazarou *et al.*,

2013). Suggesting that whilst the mutation blocks ubiquitin transfer, it doesn't affect Parkin's protein-protein interactions with partners or specific substrates.

As the interaction seems to occur independent of an associated ligase activity, it could suggest a potential scaffold or chaperone-like role for Parkin at the presynapse or other cellular compartments that harbour SNAP-25. These finding echoes emerging literature suggesting that Parkin can stabilise protein complexes or act as an adaptor under stress conditions (Iorio, Celenza and Petricca, 2021, Pereira *et al.*, 2023). Although we have not yet investigated Parkin associated SNAP-25 ubiquitination, if an interaction is determined to result in ubiquitination of SNAP-25, it would be a strong candidate for being responsible for the increased SNAP-25 ubiquitination in the CSP α -deficient environment.

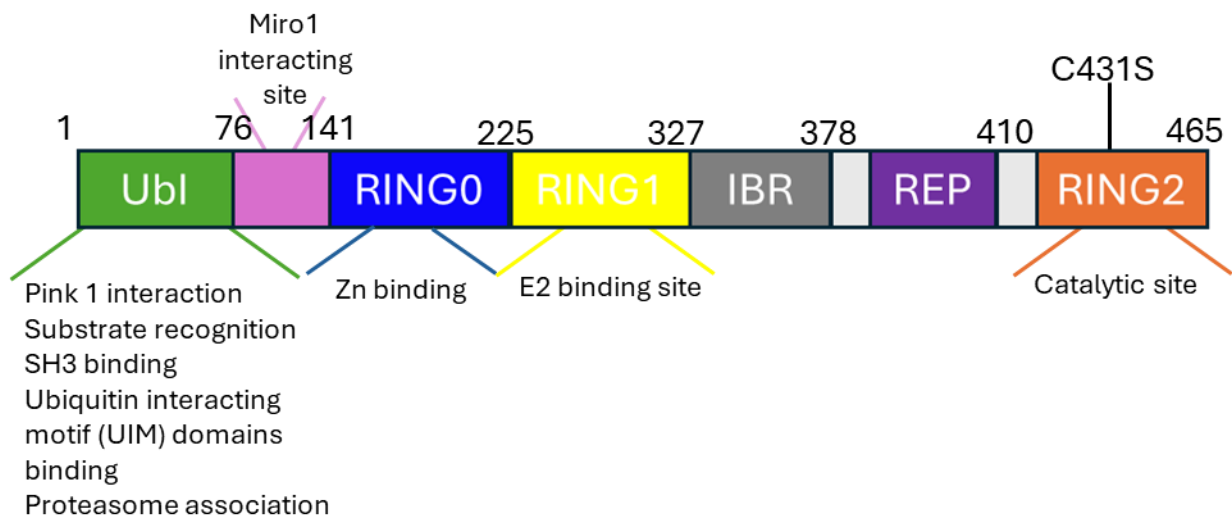


Figure 6.1: Parkin protein domain structure with location of known interactions and functions.

Wild-type Parkin domains with C431S mutation highlighted in the Catalytic RING2 domain.

Several E3 ligase proteins have been identified as having additional ubiquitin-independent roles (Table 6.1). In the case of Parkin, it can also act as a scaffold recruiting adaptors to progress mitophagy, and interacts with other proteins such as microtubules, leading to their stabilisation. It also binds to Arrestin, leading to a conformational change, and enhances Arrestin's interaction with another E3 ligase Mdm2 (Yang *et al.*, 2005, Ahmed *et al.*, 2011). Whether Parkin modulates SNAP-25 turnover or interacts in a ubiquitination-independent manner remains to be determined.

Table 6.1: Canonical and ubiquitin-independent functions of E3-ubiquitin ligase proteins.

E3 Ligase	Canonical Role	Additional ubiquitin-independent functions	References
Parkin	E3 ligase for mitochondrial proteins in mitophagy	Transcriptional regulation of p53, mitochondrial DNA protection and microtubule stabilisation.	(Müller-Rischart et al., 2013)(Riley et al., 2013b) (da Costa et al., 2009) (Rothfuss et al., 2009)
MDM2	E3 ligase targeting p53	Transcriptional coregulator, RNA-binding molecule, role in ribosomal biogenesis	(Shi and Gu, 2012) (Elenbaas et al., 1996) (Liu et al., 2016)
STUB1	E3 ligase for the ubiquitination and degradation, including FOXP3, RIPK3, tau, Sox2, Oct4, and Nanog	Co-chaperone activity with heat shock proteins	(Chen et al., 2011) (Seo et al., 2016) (Nadel et al., 2023) (Mamun et al., 2022) (Joshi et al., 2016) (Chakraborty and Edkins, 2023)
Cbl family (Cbl, Cbl-b, Cbl-c)	Ubiquitin ligases for receptor tyrosine kinases	Act as adaptor proteins in signalling complexes (EGFR, TCR signalling), involved in methylation of RNA	(Tang et al., 2022) (Visser Smit et al., 2009) (Escuder-Rodríguez et al., 2025)
TRIM family	Broad E3 ligase activity in signalling	Transcriptional regulation, chromatin remodelling, and nuclear body organisation	(Hatakeyama, 2017) (Cammass et al., 2012) (Rajsbaum et al., 2014) (Ozato et al., 2008)

HECTD1	HECT E3 ligase	Scaffold function in cytoskeletal dynamics, cell migration and base excision repair in nucleosomes	(Zhang et al., 2024) (Bennett et al., 2020) (Vaughan et al., 2022) (Salas et al., 2023)
FBXW7	E3 ligase targeting cyclin E, c-Myc, Notch	Regulates transcriptional repression and DNA replication checkpoints	(de la Cova, 2023) (Yang et al., 2022) (Giráldez et al., 2014)

6.2.2 Functional implications of a Parkin-SNAP-25 interaction

Both Parkin and SNAP-25 have been well characterised in their specific cellular compartments and have been widely studied in neurodegenerative disorders.

Mitochondrial dysregulation has been linked to a loss of proteostasis (Olivero *et al.*, 2018, Lu and Guo, 2020) Here, my data suggest possible crosstalk between mitochondrial stress pathways and synaptic proteostasis, both of which are known to have important implications in neurodegenerative disorders (Olivero *et al.*, 2018, Jagtap *et al.*, 2023, Bustamante-Barrientos *et al.*, 2023, Klemmensen *et al.*, 2024).

6.2.3 Additional E3 ligases with the potential to ubiquitinate SNAP-25

As discussed in section 3.5.4.2, a recent publication reports that TNFAIP1 ubiquitinates SNAP25 in response to post-operative neuroinflammation (W. Wang et al., 2023). TNFAIP1 a widely expressed inflammatory-associated E3 ligase, was identified as being able to ubiquitinate SNAP-25 in HT22 murine hippocampal neurons and SH-SY5Y cells (Wang et al., 2023). TNFAIP1 conjugates to SNAP-25, leading to K48-linked polyubiquitination of SNAP-25 at K69.

An overexpression of TNFAIP1 reduced HT22 cell viability, with a corresponding accumulation of reactive oxygen species, impaired PINK1/Parkin-dependent mitophagy and suppressed SNAP-25 expression, resulting in caspase-3/GSDME-dependent pyroptosis. Whilst specific knockout of TNFAIP1 led to a restoration in mitophagy, reversed SNAP-25 depletion and reduced pyroptosis (Wang et al., 2023). Not only does this work provide evidence for an E3 ligase that interacts and ubiquitinates SNAP-25, it also suggests a link between E3 ligases, dysregulation of cellular homeostasis, mitophagy and SNAP-25.

As discussed in Chapter 3, TNFAIP1 was one of the proteins predicted to interact with SNAP-25 by Ubibrowser in my bioinformatic pipeline, but was not followed up on due to greater support for other candidates (Section 3.4.2.4). The fact that both TNFAIP1 (W. Wang et al., 2023) and Parkin have evidence to support an interaction with SNAP-25, suggests that Ubibrowser acts as a good starting point to predict E3 ligase-substrate interactions in the case of SNAP-25. This could suggest that other proteins identified by the bioinformatic pipeline in Chapter 3 could also be worth experimentally testing to validate if further SNAP-25-E3 ligase interactions are possible.

In addition to testing interaction with further E3-ligases, the fact that TRIM9 was not identified as being proximal or interacting with SNAP-25 (Chapter 4) here, whilst there is evidence to support interactions in primary neuronal cultures, suggests that interactions of SNAP-25 and E3 ligases can be highly context-dependent. As such, investigations in alternative models may be required to validate interactions and ubiquitination events. As interactions may be missed due to technical features, tagging, or biological or cell-type-specific conditions (Li *et al.*, 2001, Winkle *et al.*, 2014).

6.2.4 The role of mitophagy in the presynaptic compartment

Mitophagy is a selective form of autophagy implicated in the removal of damaged mitochondria (Chu, 2019). Alterations in mitophagy have been implicated in Alzheimer's disease, where amyloid-beta and p-tau inhibit ULK1/TBK1-dependent initiation of mitophagy (Mary et al., 2023). Parkinson's where mutations and reduced expression of PINK1 and Parkin lead to a reduction of labelling of mitochondria for degradation (Liu et al., 2019). In ALS where linked genes including C9orf72 are linked to mitophagy (Evans and Holzbaur, 2019, Lee et al., 2025) and Huntington's diseases, where mutated huntingtin (mHTT) affects mitochondrial dynamics, transport and protein import via OPA1, DRP1, MPTP, TRIM23 and oxidative phosphorylation, which all have a role in mitophagy (Šonský et al., 2021) (Han et al., 2020, Killackey et al., 2020, Banarase et al., 2023, Wang et al., 2022).

Emerging literature suggests that the presynapses are hubs of mitophagy for damaged mitochondria in axons, where mitophagy is initiated and the formation of autophagosomes is localised (Lam et al., 2024, Kargbo-Hill et al., 2019, Yang et al., 2022) (Figure 6.2). Defective mitophagy has been shown to lead to the accumulation of Reactive oxygen species which have been shown to induce damage to synaptic proteins (Massaad and Klann, 2011) which suggests that there is the potential for mitophagy to both be a contributing factor and a consequence of the neurodegeneration in the presynaptic compartment set out here.

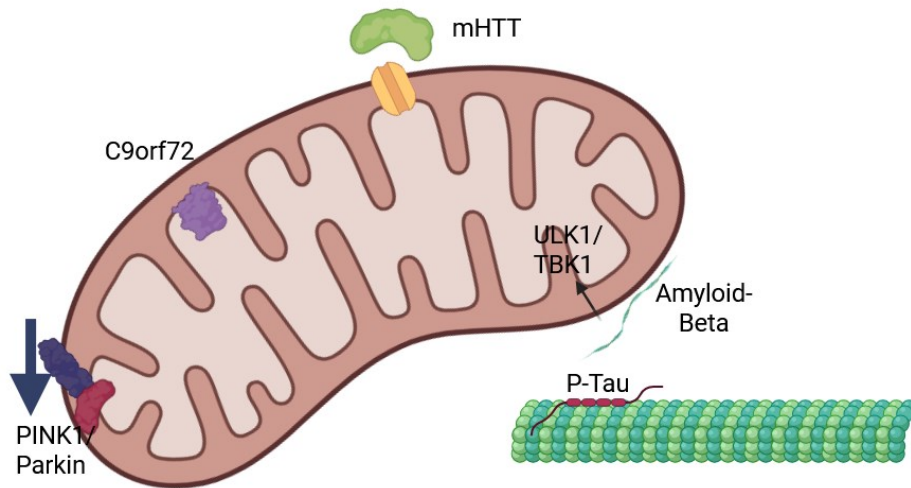


Figure 6.2: The role of dysfunctional mitophagy at the presynapse in neurodegenerative disease.

6.3 Consequences of an absence of CSP α in PC12 cells

As described and discussed in Chapter 5, the deficiency of CSP α in PC12 cells leads to both a decrease in protein levels of SNAP-25 and an unexpected loss of NGF responsiveness with corresponding loss of differentiation ability and a striking increase in proliferation. The lack of differentiation in the face of NGF treatment could be a direct result of the deficiency in CSP α affecting turnover of Trk receptors, as discussed in Section 5.4.2.1, or could be a downstream effect of a downregulation of other proteins in the cell lines (Section 6.3.1).

Whilst CSP α is present in low levels in the undifferentiated PC12 cells (Figure 4.2), the removal here suggests that this small pool has a role either directly or indirectly involved in the development of PC12 neurites, not just the maintenance of exocytosis (Rozas et al., 2012). The choice of PC12 cells over other cell lines and types such as SH-SY5Y cells, iPSc (Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells) or Primary neuronal cultures limits what can be extracted from the model generated here in terms of CSP α 's conical role as a pre-synaptic chaperone and its function in neurons but provided a practical model to investigate its role in a rapidly dividing neuronal-like system.

6.3.1 Alterations in several proteins lead to loss of PC12 differentiation

There are other examples of situations where molecularly modified PC12 knockdown cells have also been generated and have lost the ability to differentiate in response to NGF.

PC12 cells express both the TrkA and low-affinity p75^{NTR} receptors for NGF (Hartman *et al.*, 1992, Roux and Barker, 2002, Negrini, D'Alessandro and Meldolesi, 2013). When NGF binds, it causes TrkA dimerisation and autophosphorylation, triggering the MAPK/ERK pathway. PC12 differentiation requires the sustained activation of ERK to activate transcription factor Egr1 (Qui and Green, 1992, Friedman and Greene, 1999).

Removal of NGF responsiveness or inhibitors of the MAPK/ERK signalling pathway can disrupt neurite outgrowth (Table 6.2). Alterations in a number of proteins have unexpectedly led to PC12 cells becoming resistant to NGF-triggered differentiation (Table 6.2). Some of the protein alterations directly affected the activity of EGR1, whilst others have not been found to directly affect EGR1 signalling, suggesting that alterations in a number of proteins have the potential to dysregulate the signalling cascade required for PC12 neurite outgrowth.

Both α CaMKII (Ca²⁺/Calmodulin-Dependent Protein Kinase II) and Rab5 modulation (Table 6.2) have been observed to change the morphology and stop neurite outgrowth in PC12 cells (Massé and Kelly, 1997, Liu *et al.*, 2007), this along with the hint of potential endosomal sorting disruption in my work (Section 5.3.6) and the fact that the two most enriched downregulated GO terms were regulation of late endosome to lysosomal transport and negative regulation of high voltage calcium channel activity (Section 5.3.9) could suggest a potential link between these pathways and neurite outgrowth in PC12 cells.

Table 6.2: PC12 modified lines which have lost the ability to differentiate in response to NGF

Protein alteration	Pathway affected	References
p75 ^{NTR} repression in PC12-27	Defective NGF signalling due to the absence of p75 ^{NTR} (lowaffinity NGF receptor) impairs PI3K pathway activation, mTORC2 signalling and neurite outgrowth.	(Negrini et al., 2013)
TrkA-deficient PC12 lines CRISPR TrkA ^{-/-} and PC12nnr	Eliminates NGF-induced signalling and neurogenesis	(Loeb et al., 1991) (Testa et al., 2022)
Rap1 pathway components PDZ-GEF1/C3G or Rap1knockdowns	Reduces or abolishes NGF induced neurite formation by disrupting the Rap1 pathway	(Hisata et al., 2007) (Jeon et al., 2010b)

NAB2 overexpression	Cells continue proliferating instead of undergoing growth arrest and neurite outgrowth. Early NGF signalling (e.g., MAPK activation, immediate early gene induction) remains intact, but late response genes such as TGF- β 1 and MMP-3 fail to be induced and p21 ^{WAF1} required for growth	(Qu et al., 1998) (Spolidoro et al., 2020)
	arrest and development of neurites is downregulated	
PTEN overexpression	Leads to a significant downregulation of TrkA and p75, resulting in loss of differentiation and growth arrest	(Musatov et al., 2004)
CDK2 overexpression	Loss of differentiation and an increase in cell growth rate	(Dobashi et al., 1995)
α CaMKII (Ca ²⁺ /CalmodulinDependent Protein Kinase II) overexpression	Led to alteration in PC12 morphology whereby cells treated with NGF, flatten and form large growth-cone-like structures but fail to extend neurites.	(Massé and Kelly, 1997)
Rab5 constitutively active (Q79L mutant)	Inhibits NGF-induced neurite outgrowth by blocking activation of TrkA on endosomes	(Liu et al., 2007)

6.3.2 Could loss of differentiation ability in the CSP α -deficient PC12 cells be due to the loss of SNAP-25

SNAP-25 knockdown in PC12 cells has been shown to directly impair exocytosis (Cahill et al., 2006) whilst in NGF-treated PC12 cells SNAP-25 localises to growth cones (Moriyama et al., 1999). This, along with observations that alterations in levels of SNAP-25 correlate with an inhibition of

PC12 neurite outgrowth formation, supports the suggestion that a reduction in SNAP-25 levels could inhibit PC12 cells' ability to differentiate.

In models where SNAP-25 is directly reduced or inhibited, PC12 differentiation has been observed to be inhibited. Cleavage of SNAP-25 with botulinum neurotoxin C (BoNT/C) inhibits both PC12 neurite outgrowth and causes collapse of growth cones (Igarashi *et al.*, 1996, Morihara *et al.*, 1999) this has been mechanistically rationalised by the fact that neurite outgrowth requires both membrane addition and targeted exocytosis at the growth cones.

(Kimura *et al.*, 2003).

A PC12 model expressing shRNA targeting SNAP-25, leading to a reduction in its levels to approximately 5% of its normal levels, leads to inhibition of differentiation corresponding to a failure of localised exocytosis (Osen-Sand *et al.*, 1993, Osen-Sand *et al.*, 1996, Cahill, Herring and Fox, 2006). Whilst a Parkin shRNA knockout PC12 line with an accumulation in p21 has a corresponding downregulation of SNAP-25 and an associated loss of differentiation (Park *et al.*, 2017). Conversely, overexpression of SNAP-25 in PC12 cells leads to an increase in the number of neurite outgrowths per cell and an increase in the total length of neurites (Shirasu *et al.*, 2000). The examples here suggest that SNAP-25 influences PC12 cell homeostasis via exocytosis, growth-cone dynamics and potentially via neurite outgrowth.

An over-expression of SNAP-25 supports outgrowth and neurite extension in PC12, hippocampal and cortical neurons (Wu *et al.*, 2011, Tomasoni *et al.*, 2013). A reduction in neurite length is also observed in the neurons from the CSP α -/- mouse, which has a 40% reduction in SNAP-25 due to its misfolding and proteasomal degradation (Sharma *et al.*, 2012a). A further reduction in SNAP-25 levels reduces the formation of neurites and cell survival. SNAP25 knockout is perinatally lethal in mouse models due to an inability to perform evoked synaptic transmission (Washbourne *et al.*, 2002) and whilst primary neurons can be cultured from embryos, impaired neurite outgrowth and branching is observed (Delgado-Martínez *et al.*, 2007). Suggesting that modulating the levels of SNAP-25 both via a reduction in translation and an increased degradation of misfolded SNAP-25 may have a direct effect on signalling and cell state.

The reduction in SNAP-25 levels observed in the CSP α -deficient PC12 cells was quantified as a reduction of 90.5% for CD3 and 99% for CD5 (Section 5.3.5), and similar phenotypic changes are observed as described in this literature which could potentially be suggestive of a role either directly or indirectly for SNAP-25 in PC12 differentiation. Taking this into consideration, the loss of

differentiation ability and loss of NGF responsiveness in the CSP α -deficient lines may be modulated via the observed downregulation of SNAP-25 by an unidentified signalling pathway.

However, as discussed above in (Section 6.3.1), several protein alterations have also been observed to lead to a loss of differentiation, as such loss of differentiation ability could be a consequence of a loss of proteostasis or of cellular stress and further experiments would be required to fully elucidate the mechanism for loss of differentiation ability in the CSP α CD cell lines.

6.4 Cell-type-specific function of CSP α

Whilst the majority of investigations into CSP α have taken place in the context of differentiated neurons or models thereof (Figure 6.3). Recent work investigating CSP α in a range of both pre- and post-mitotic (Figure 6.4) cell states has led to the suggestion that CSP α has additional roles (Fernández-Chacón *et al.*, 2004, Valenzuela-Villatoro *et al.*, 2018, Rosene and Benitez, 2025).

These additional roles highlight the underappreciated function of CSP α that appears to be cell type dependent (Figure 6.3). The neuronal roles of CSP α (summarised in Section 1.5 of the general introduction Chapter 1) are well documented and characterised. CSP α functions include the chaperoning of SNARE protein SNAP-25, a role in the polymerisation of Dyn-1, regulation of G-protein signalling and interaction with calcium ion channels (Zhang *et al.*, 2012, Magga *et al.*, 2000, Bai *et al.*, 2007) (Figure 6.3).

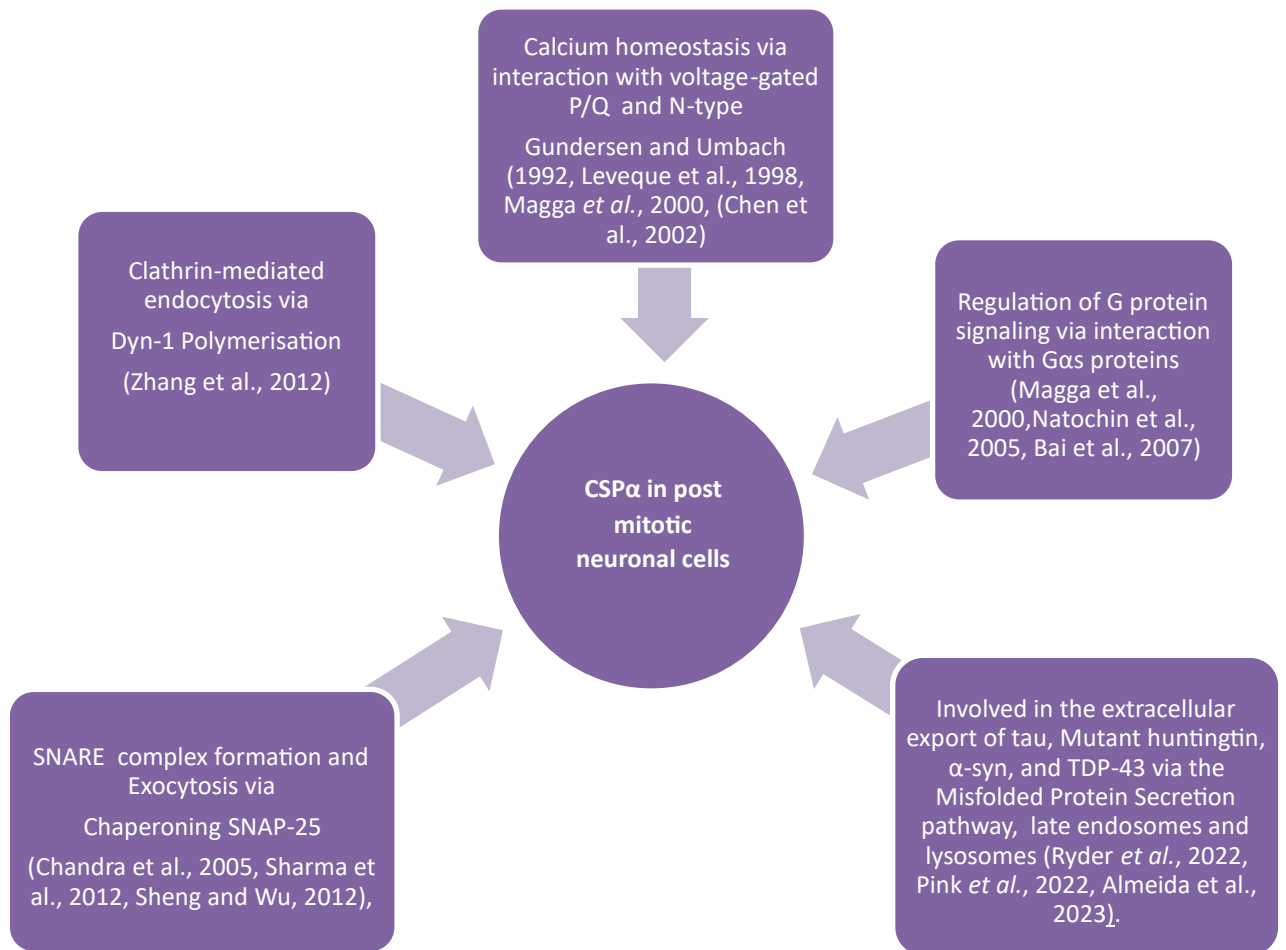


Figure 6.3: Roles of CSP α in neuronal post-mitotic neuronal cell models

Modulation of CSP α in a range of pre-mitotic cell types has led to the identification of roles of CSP α in the pre-mitotic cells, which can be classified as CSP α acting as a co-chaperone on a previously under-represented substrate, acting in a classical trafficking context or acting in a novel non-chaperone-based ways (Figure 6.4). The work undertaken here identifies both potential chaperon and/or trafficking roles of CSP α . Levels of SNAP-25 and Dyn-1 were reduced in the PC12 CSP α -deficient cells as has been previously described in CSP α $-/-$ neuronal models by Chandra et al 2005, Sharma et al 2012, Sheng and Wu 2012 and Zhang et al 2012 (Figure 6.3). Whilst changes in proliferation and differentiation could be supported by work in other CSP α - $-$ pre-mitotic models. The large change in proteomic signatures alongside the work of Nieto-González et al., 2019 which described changes in the transcriptome of CSP α knockout cells, suggests loss of CSP α may have wide-reaching downstream effects. Whilst this work and both H. Wang et al., 2021, Chen et al., 2025 suggest a role in modulating EGFR downstream signalling effecting rates of proliferation (Figure 6.4). However, here I set out data to support that CSP α may also have a role in the modulation of Trk

receptors, leading to a loss of differentiation which has not been previously identified in any other model, and the large-scale proteomic changes identified in the PC12 model provide future avenues to explore CSP α function away from the synapse.



Figure 6.4: Roles of CSP α in non-neuronal pre-mitotic cell lines

6.4.1 A potential model of CSP α -deficiency in PC12 cells

The work undertaken here, alongside other recent work in a range of non-neuronal pre-mitotic cells, highlights that the roles of CSP α are far more diverse than previously thought and highly cell-type specific (Figure 6.4).

6.4.2 Evidence of proteasomal disorder in the CSP α -deficient cell lines suggestive of cellular stress

Overall, Ubiquitination levels were altered between the Parental and the CSP α -deficient cell lines in addition, several ubiquitin-related proteins were altered in the label-free proteomics. Some E3 ubiquitin ligases were increased, whilst hydrolases were down-regulated (Table 5.2). This could suggest that the increase in ubiquitination is not solely due to an increase in ubiquitination but may also be a decrease in de-ubiquitination. This could extend the network of proteins to investigate in the context of dysregulated proteostasis in the absence of CSP α .

My label-free whole-cell proteomics revealed significant alterations in the expression of numerous proteins in CSP α -deficient cells (Appendix C.4 for the full list of altered proteins). These global changes suggest a reprogramming of the cellular proteome and provide candidate pathways through which CSP α might regulate broader aspects of cellular function and homeostasis. For example, shifts in the levels of proteins involved in splicing, transcription factors, or protein quality control components (Figures 5.13 and 5.16) could mediate or compensate for the loss of CSP α activity in the context of cellular stress. This may explain the overall change in cellular phenotype as the burden of stress may modulate proteostasis and have knock on consequences in terms of cellular phenotype.

6.5 Future Work

6.5.1 Characterisation of SNAP-25- E3 ligase Parkin interaction

Having uncovered evidence of a SNAP-25-Parkin interaction within this work, further work would be required to answer three main questions to characterise this interaction. 1 What is the nature of the interaction? Is it direct, indirect, and if direct, what domains are involved in the binding? 2. What are the upstream consequences of the interaction? And 3. Is Parkin the ligase responsible for increased ubiquitination of SNAP-25 in a CSP α -deficient context?

In order to further our understanding of the potential relationship between SNAP-25 and Parkin, ubiquitination studies could be carried out to determine the nature of the interaction. In addition, an attempt to characterise the interacting domains could be interesting in furthering our

understanding of how Parkin interacts with different partners using different domains (Section in chapter 4.4.7).

Functional dissection of the Parkin–SNAP-25 interaction, including whether it impacts SNARE complex assembly or trafficking, or whether an interaction could potentially function in the context of mitochondrial function, would be required to understand the consequences of the interaction.

Finally, it has already been observed that PC12 cells with a Parkin shRNA knockout have a corresponding downregulation of SNAP-25 and a loss of differentiation (Park et al., 2017). If the Parkin-SNAP-25 interaction function was ubiquitin-dependent degradation, this corresponding downregulation of SNAP-25 would be unexpected, potentially providing further support for a potential alternative role of the interaction. It could also be insightful to determine if there is overlap in the pathway altered in the CSP α -deficient PC12 cells generated in this study and the Parkin shRNA knockout PC12 cells, to determine if the mechanisms behind the loss of differentiation can be understood.

6.5.2 CSP α deficiency directs cell phenotype

The generation of the two CSP α -deficient PC12 cell lines has opened up key questions about where and when CSP α may act. It is known to be widely expressed (in the CNS, PNS, Retinal, and secretory cells, as well as in non-neuronal tissues at lower levels) and has roles beyond the classical synaptic vesicle targeting. The production of isogenic cell lines, as discussed here eliminates the variables of genetic background heterogeneity which is useful for research into the modelling of disease and in genetic research aiding in the unravelling of CSP α 's function in post mitotic cells (Haagensen et al., 2016).

Further work would be required to answer three main questions: 1. Does restoring CSP α or SNAP-25 levels lead to a restoration of PC12 differentiation ability and regulation of proliferation? 2. Is induced cellular stress able to prevent PC12 cellular differentiation or is this specific to CSP α ? And 3. Does CSP α have a role in the maintenance of plasma membrane receptors?

Attempting rescue experiments of the CSP α -deficiency induced phenotype with the addition of a CSP α construct would dissect the loss of differentiation ability. In addition, the introduction of a SNAP-25 construct to rescue levels of reduced SNAP-25 in the CSP α -deficient background would also provide insight into whether SNAP-25 expression reverses the CSP α -deficient phenotype as observed. As SNAP-25 overexpression in the CSP α knockdown mouse reversed CSP α -/- neurodegeneration in cortical areas with regard to neuron density, synaptic density, apoptosis and

astrogliosis (Sharma *et al.*, 2012). As such, it would be interesting to understand if SNAP-25 rescue can reverse the altered phenotypes observed in the CSP α -deficient PC12 cells also. If the lack of differentiation ability is reduced by SNAP-25 transfection, this could help explain the lack of differentiation in both the CD3 and CD5 lines and also the loss observed in Parkin knockout PC12 lines (Section 6.3.2), which also have a loss of SNAP-25 and differentiation ability (Park *et al.*, 2017).

Secondly, the removal of CSP α both here and in other models produces an alteration in cellular homeostasis in response to cellular stress. This allows the possibility to test if CSP α is acting discretely, producing a downstream signalling cascade leading to the alterations in phenotypes observed. Or if stressed cells treated with drugs or modulators such as VER-155008 and JG98, which inhibit HSP70 or Tunicamycin, which leads to ER stress, would also lead to the change in phenotype in terms of proteomic change, hyperproliferation and loss of differentiation, which here I have characterised here in terms of a CSP α -deficiency. To determine if the intersection of cellular stress at the wrong stage in development could also be responsible for these changes.

Lastly, work to determine if CSP α has a potential role in plasma membrane receptor stabilisation or trafficking would be interesting in both the context of this study and as CSP α has been termed oncogenic due to its implicated involvement in modulating the expression of EGFR in cancerous contexts (H. Wang *et al.*, 2021, Chen *et al.*, 2025). This could involve colocalisation experiments between CSP α and the EGFR and TrK receptors and potentially pulse chase experiments to estimate the half-lives of the receptors in the presence and absence of CSP α .

6.6 Summary and Overall Conclusions

In conclusion, in this thesis, I have met the aims of investigating SNAP-25-E3 ligase and produced and characterised two CSP α -deficient PC12 cell lines.

The observed interaction between SNAP-25 and Parkin, even in the absence of E3 ligase activity, opens new avenues to explore non-canonical roles for E3 ligases in synaptic protein regulation.

Whilst the generation of the CSP α -deficient PC12 cell lines has increased our understanding of the roles CSP α plays beyond the synapse. Together, our findings suggest that CSP α plays a multifaceted role in maintaining homeostasis, not only as a chaperone for specific presynaptic proteins but also as a modulator of broader cellular signalling and differentiation and functions in a cell-type-specific manner.

Appendix A Bioinformatics data

A.1 Identification of E3 ligases that interact with SNAP-25 from the literature-based approach

Appendix A **Table A1.1: Literature results Returned for the identification of E3 ligases associated with SNAP-25 based on PubMed database identification**

SNAP25 ligase	SNAP25 E3 ligase	SNAP25 ubiquitination
<p>1: Zhang et al 2013 doi:10.1007/s00018-012-1103-5</p> <p>2: Princely et al 2019 doi:10.1016/j.devcel.2019.03.013.</p> <p>3: Tsai et al 2010 doi:10.1073/pnas.1008302107.</p> <p>4: Choe et al. 2007 doi: 10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1408-07.2007.</p> <p>5: Tsai et al 2017 doi: 10.1073/pnas.1621076114.</p> <p>6: Winkle et al 2014 doi:10.1083/jcb.201311003.</p> <p>7: Sen et al 2021 doi: 10.3389/fphar.2021.763950</p>	<p>1: Zhang et al 2012 doi:10.1007/s00018-012-1103-5.</p> <p>2: Princely et al 2019 doi:10.1016/j.devcel.2019.03.013</p> <p>3: Park et al 2017 doi: 10.7150/thno.19824.</p> <p>4: Sen et al. 2021 doi: 10.3389/fphar.2021.763950.</p> <p>5: Winkle et al 2014 doi:10.1083/jcb.201311003.</p> <p>6: Tsai et al 2017 Jun .doi: 10.1073/pnas.1621076114.</p> <p>7: Tai HC, et al 2010 doi: 10.3389/fnmol.2010.00012.</p>	<p>1: Na et al 2012 doi: 10.1021/pr300536k. 2: Shirafuji et al 2017 doi: 10.1267/ahc.17028 3: Princely et al 2019 doi:10.1016/j.devcel.2019.03.013</p> <p>4: Bodewes et al. 2019 doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2019.00312.</p> <p>5: Muraoka et al 2021 doi:10.14336/AD.2020.1007.</p> <p>6: Tizzano et al 2015 Nov Doi: 10.1093/chemse/bjv048.</p> <p>7: Sadeghi et al. 2021 doi: 10.1038/s41598-021-87555-7.</p>

<p>8: Park et al 2017 doi: 10.7150/thno.19824.</p> <p>9: Tai et al 2010 doi: 10.3389/fnmol.2010.00012</p> <p>10: Schubert et al 2011 doi: 10.1002/glia.21190. 11: Jørgensen et al 1997 doi: 10.1006/exnr.1996.6372.</p> <p>12: Li <i>et al.</i>, 2001 Doi:10.1074/jbc.M106141200</p>	<p>8: Choe EA, et al 2007 doi: 10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1408-07.2007.</p>	<p>8: Tsai et al 2017 Jun doi: 10.1073/pnas.1621076114.</p> <p>9: Shirafuji T, et al 2018 Doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1649-17.2017.</p> <p>10: Sen et al 2021 doi: 10.3389/fphar.2021.763950.</p> <p>11: Tsai et al. 2010 doi:10.1073/pnas.1008302107.</p> <p>12: Park et al. 2017 May doi: 10.7150/thno.19824. PMID: 28656059;</p> <p>13: Winkle et al 2014 doi:10.1083/jcb.201311003 14: Sharma M, et al 2011 doi: 10.1038/ncb2131. 15: Yiadom et al 2005 doi:10.1016/j.bbrc.2005.07.196.</p>
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		<p>16: Tai et al. 2010 doi: 10.3389/fnmol.2010.00012..</p> <p>17: Liu 2015 doi: 10.1523/JNEUROSCI.5288-14.2015.</p> <p>18: Yang et al 2007 Jun doi: 10.1002/cne.21317. PMID: 17447252.</p> <p>19: Singh et al. 2011 doi: 10.1093/toxsci/kfr115. 20: Zhang et al . 2013 doi:10.1007/s00018- 012-1103-5.</p> <p>21: Latina et al 2018 doi: 10.3389/fncel.2018.00487</p> <p>22: Honma et al 2017 doi:10.1016/j.archoralbio.2016.10.025.</p> <p>23: Sherriff et al. 1994 doi: 10.1007/BF00389495.</p> <p>24: Nibe et al 2009</p>
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		<p>doi: 10.1354/vp.08-VP-0156-U-FL.</p> <p>25: Pullan et al 2006 doi: 10.1016/j.str.2006.01.012.</p> <p>26: de la Monte et al. doi: 10.3233/JAD-160656.</p> <p>27: Yee et al 2003 doi: 10.1002/cne.10589. PMID: 12629664.</p> <p>28: Wilson et al. 2001 doi: 10.1212/wnl.57.4.651. 29: Savioz et al . 2003 doi: 10.1016/s0969- 9961(02)00011-6.</p> <p>30: Choe et al 2007 doi: 10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1408-07.2007.</p> <p>31: Sienkiewicz et al. 2000 doi: 10.1046/j.1439-0264.2000.00272.x.</p>
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Appendix

E3 ligase filtering from predictions of Ubibrowser

Table A1.2: E3 ligases predicted to interact with SNAP-25 by ubibrowser 1.0 with ranking and evidence used to make the prediction.

Rank	E3	E3 Name	Presence of an enriched domain pair	Presence of E3 recognising domain	Presence of networks loops	Ortholog interactions	Enriched GO pair	Confidence level	Confidence score
1	NEDD4	E3 ubiquitin protein ligase NEDD4		•	•		•	HIGH	0.788
2	SOCS5	Suppressor of cytokine signalling 5		•	•		•	MIDDLE	0.719
3	MDM2	E3 ubiquitin protein ligase Mdm2		•	•		•	MIDDLE	0.715
4	STUB1	E3 ubiquitin protein ligase CHIP			•		•	MIDDLE	0.704
5	CBX8	Chromo box protein homolog 8			•		•	MIDDLE	0.695
6	CBL	E3 ubiquitin protein ligase CBL		•	•		•	MIDDLE	0.686

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7	PAFAH1B1	Platelet activating factor acetylhydrolase IB subunit alpha			•		•	MIDDLE	0.681
8	SMURF1	E3 ubiquitin protein ligase SMURF1		•	•		•	MIDDLE	0.679
9	SYVN1	E3 ubiquitin protein ligase synoviolin		•	•		•	MIDDLE	0.677
10	NEDD4L	E3 ubiquitin protein ligase NEDD4-like		•	•		•	MIDDLE	0.677
11	GNB1	Guanine nucleotide binding protein G(I)/G(S)/G(T) subunit beta-1			•		•	MIDDLE	0.675
12	RPH3AL	Rab effector Noc2		•		•		MIDDLE	0.671
13	SYTL4	Synaptotagmin-like protein 4		•		•		MIDDLE	0.667
14	PCGF2	Polycomb group RING finger protein 2	•		•	LOW		0.665	

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15	CBX4	E3 SUMO-protein ligase CBX4	•		•	LOW	0.665		
16	BAZ1B	Tyrosine protein kinase BAZ1B			•		•	LOW	0.665
17	HSPA8	Heat shock cognate 71 kDa protein			•		•	LOW	0.653
18	BARD1	BRCA1-associated RING domain protein 1			•		•	LOW	0.649
19	VHL	Von Hippel Lindau disease tumour suppressor		•	•		•	LOW	0.641
20	IBTK	Inhibitor of Bruton tyrosine kinase			•		•	LOW	0.64
21	RING1	E3 ubiquitin protein ligase RING1					•	LOW	0.64
22	MARCH9	E3 ubiquitin protein ligase MARCH9		•			•	LOW	0.633

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23	RNF216	E3 ubiquitin protein ligase RNF216		•	•		•	LOW	0.63
24	MNAT1	CDK-activating kinase assembly factor MAT1			•		•	LOW	0.628
25	EP300	Histone acetyltransferase p300			•		•	LOW	0.628
26	CREBBP	CREB-binding protein			•		•	LOW	0.628
27	PML	Protein PML			•		•	LOW	0.626
28	TRIM27	Zinc finger protein RFP			•		•	LOW	0.622
29	RANBP2	E3 SUMO-protein ligase RanBP2			•		•	LOW	0.617
30	TNFAIP1	BTB/POZ domain containing adapter for CUL3 mediated RhoA degradation protein 2			•		•	LOW	0.617

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31	CRYAB	Alpha-crystallin B chain			•		•	LOW	0.617
32	PPIL2	Peptidylprolyl isomerase-like 2			•		•	LOW	0.617
33	CADPS 2	Calcium dependent secretion activator 2					•	LOW	0.615
34	WDTC1	WD and Tetratricopeptide repeats protein 1					•	LOW	0.615
35	STC1	Stanniocalcin-1					•	LOW	0.615
36	SMURF 2	E3 ubiquitin protein ligase SMURF2		•	•		•	LOW	0.611
37	ASB2	Ankyrin repeat and SOCS box protein 2		•				LOW	0.61
38	PARK2	E3 ubiquitin protein ligase parkin			•		•	LOW	0.609

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39	SOCS7	Suppressor of cytokine signalling 7			•		•	LOW	0.609
40	TEP1	Telomerase protein component 1			•		•	LOW	0.605
41	CISH	Cytokine inducible SH2-containing protein			•		•	LOW	0.605
42	UBE3C	Ubiquitin protein ligase E3C		•			•	LOW	0.604
43	FZR1	Fizzy-related protein homolog		•			•	LOW	0.604
44	TTC3	E3 ubiquitin protein ligase TTC3		•			•	LOW	0.604

Appendix

Table A1.3: E3 ligases predicted to interact with SNAP-25 by ubibrowser 2.0, with evidence used to make the prediction.

E3	E3 Name	Species predicted in	Presence of an enriched domain pair	Presence of E3 recognising motif	Presence of network loops	Ortholog interactions	Enriched GO pair	Confidence score
BTRC-	Fbox/WD repeat containing protein 1A	H.sapiens		•	•		•	0.814
BARD1	BRCA1 Associated RING Domain 1	C.familiaris		•			•	0.8
ARIH1	RBR-type E3 ubiquitin transferase	C.porcellus		•			•	0.793
PRKN	E3 ubiquitin - protein ligase parkin	C.porcellus		•			•	0.793
RC3H2	RING-type E3 ubiquitin transferase	C.porcellus		•			•	0.793
RC3H2	RINGtype E3 ubiquitin transferase	T.guttata		•			•	0.793

ARIH1	E3 ubiquitin - protein ligase arih1	X.tropical is		•			•	0.778
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Table A1.4: Sources of information for curation of the DisGeNET gene-disease database

Organisation of DisGeNET gene disease information	Gene-disease associations sources
Curated	<p>UniProt- database containing information about protein structure and function, GDAs obtained from the humsaver file, and only associations marked as disease included in the DisGeNET database.</p> <p>PsyGeNET- Psychiatric disorders gene association Network. Is a resource for exploratory analysis of the genes associated with psychiatric diseases, all included in DisGeNET database.</p> <p>Orphanet-reference database for information on rare disease all gene disease associations included</p> <p>Comparative toxico genomics database- CTD (human data) is a manually curated database which focuses on the effects of environmental chemicals on health. Associations marked as marker/mechanism or therapeutic included in DisGeNET database.</p> <p>ClinGen- the clinical genome resource is a resource that defines the clinical relevance of genes all gene-disease associations where included apart from those labelled “refuted”</p>
	<p>Genomics England PanelApp- a database formed of virtual gene panels related to human disorders, all gene-disease associations from this source were used.</p>
Animal models	<p>RGD Rat genome database- database of rat genetic and genomic research, associations labelled resistance, no association, or inferred from electronic annotation/sequence/structural similarity and nontraceable authors were excluded.</p> <p>MGD Mouse Genome Database- is an integrated genetic, genomic and biological resource database about laboratory mice</p> <p>CTD Comparative Toxicogenomic database- mouse and rat database containing gene-disease associations</p>

Appendix

Inferred	<p>Human Phenotype ontology standardises vocabulary of phenotype abnormalities, gene_to_phenotype file, imported.</p> <p>GWAS catalogue and database- the GWAS catalogue by NHGRI-EBI is a manually curated literature catalogue of genome-wide association studies assaying single nucleotide polymorphism (SNPs). Variant disease associations with p-values $<1.0 \times 10^{-6}$ were included in the DisGeNET database.</p> <p>CLINVAR- Public archive of relationship between medically relevant variants and phenotypes. Imported variant-disease associations with labels including pathogenic, likely pathogenic, risk factor and affects.</p>
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Appendix B :BioID development and cloning of constructs

B.1. Expression of Synaptic and E3 ligase proteins in cellular models

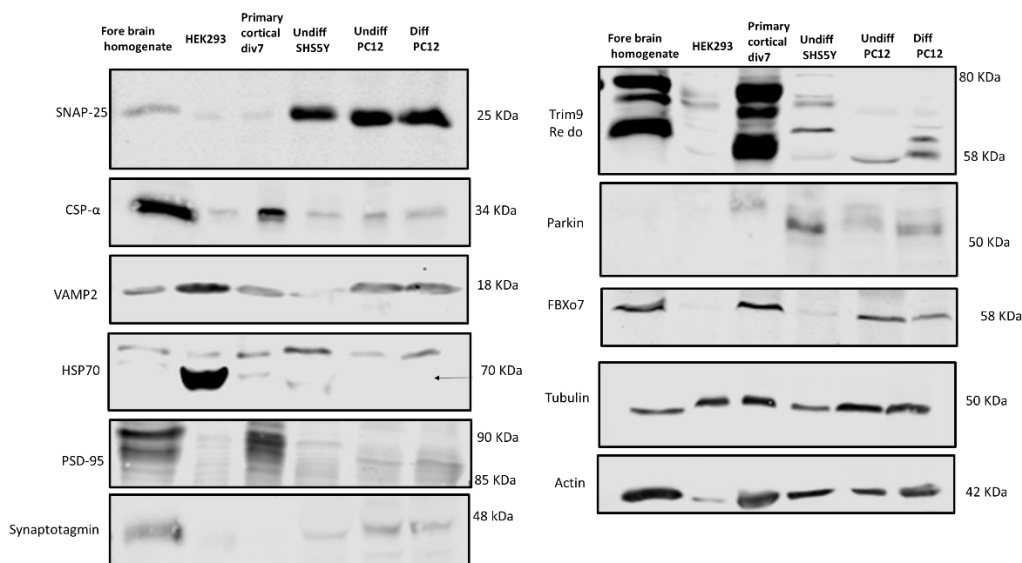


Figure B.1: Expression of Synaptic and E3 ligase proteins in cellular models: PC12 cells express CSP α and SNAP-25 associated proteins as well as candidate E3 ligases

Western blot of Mouse forebrain homogenate, HEK293FT, Primary Cortical (Div 7) neurons, SH5y5 (undifferentiated), and Undifferentiated and differentiated PC12 cell lysates probed for CSP α interacting proteins, general synaptic proteins and candidate E3 ligase proteins. Tubulin and actin staining represent probing for housekeeping proteins representative of protein load N=1.

B.1.1 Investigating if Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 can form a SNARE complex.

To ensure that with the addition of the Myc tag and the BioID unit, SNAP-25 was still able to form a SNARE complex with its interacting partners, Syntaxin-1 and VAMP-2, PC12 cells were transfected with Myc-BioID-SNAP-25. The lysates were harvested as described in section 2.9.1 in lysis buffer (Tris pH 7.5 50 mM, NaCl 140 mM, EDTA 2 mM, NP-40 1%, glycerol 10%) and split into two, with one lysate boiled to dissociate the SDS-resistant SNARE complex and the other left unboiled. These samples were resolved by SDS-PAGE, western blotting and probed for SNAP-25 and Myc immunoreactivity (Appendix Figure B.2).

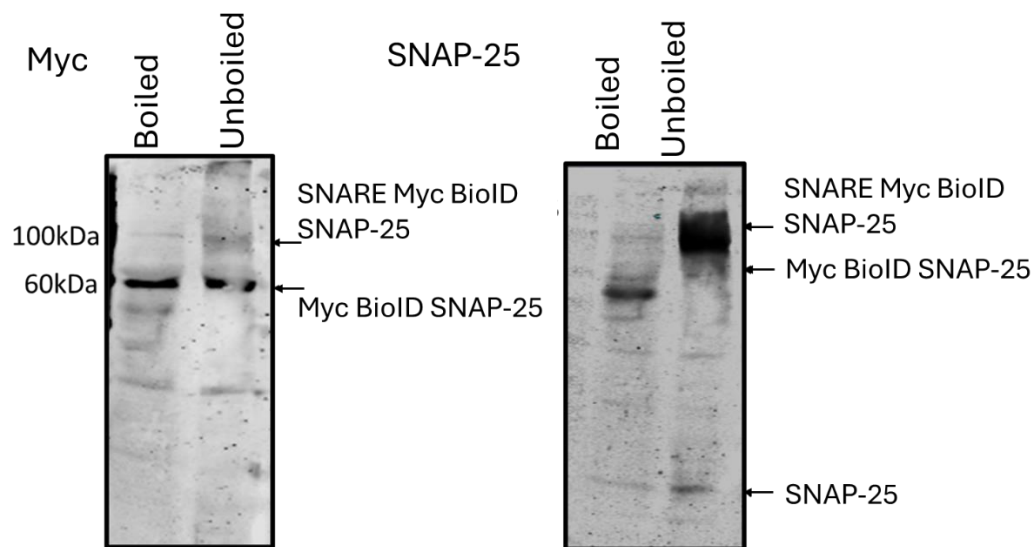


Figure B.2: Myc BioID SNAP-25 forms a SNARE complex in PC12 cells

PC12 cells were transfected with Myc BioID SNAP-25 and lysed 16 hours later. The lysates were untreated (unboiled) or heated at 95°C for 5 minutes (boiled) (Assembled SNARE complex) and resolved by SDS PAGE before being immunolabeled with Myc or SNAP-25 antibodies. N=1

Myc immunoreactivity is present at 60 kDa, corresponding to Myc BioID SNAP-25 in the boiled sample. In the unboiled sample, the Myc immunoreactivity is present at 60 kDa, with an additional band at ~100 kDa. The latter high molecular weight immunoreactivity is MycBioID-SNAP-25 in a SNARE complex with VAMP2 and Syntaxin 1. This is consistent with the C-terminal BioID tag not interfering with SNAP-25 propensity to form a SNARE complex.

In the same samples, probed with SNAP-25, SNAP-25 immunoreactivity is present at 25 kDa and 60 kDa. This represents the endogenous and exogenously expressed BioID-tagged SNAP-25. SNAP-25 immunoreactivity in the unboiled sample is abundant at 60 kDa, which is Myc-BioID-SNAP-25, is reduced compared to the boiled sample but the dominant Immunoreactivity is at ~100 kDa, likely corresponding to SNARE complex-associated MycBioID-SNAP-25.

Appendix

Whilst there is a striking difference regarding incorporation between the immunoreactivity of the Myc and the SNAP-25 in unboiled samples, the presence of immunoreactivity at 100 kDa in both is evidence for the Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 still being able to form a SNARE complex.

B.1.2 Time dependence of cellular biotinylation across varying incubation times

To optimise the biotin incubation time, the Myc-BioID constructs were transfected into HEK239 FT cells. After 24 hours, transfected cultures were incubated with biotin (50 μ M) and lysed 16, 18 or 24 hours later. (Roux et al., 2012). These distinct treatments were lysed and resolved by SDS PAGE and probed for streptavidin reactivity (Figure B.3). As before, the most intense labelled reactivity related to immunoreactivity of the size of each construct. In addition, each transfected construct led to a ladder of immunoreactivity bands. There was no clear difference in the levels of cellular biotinylation or the emergence of additional immunoreactivity between 16, 18 and 24 hours. As such, cells were subsequently incubated with biotin for 16 hours in subsequent experiments.

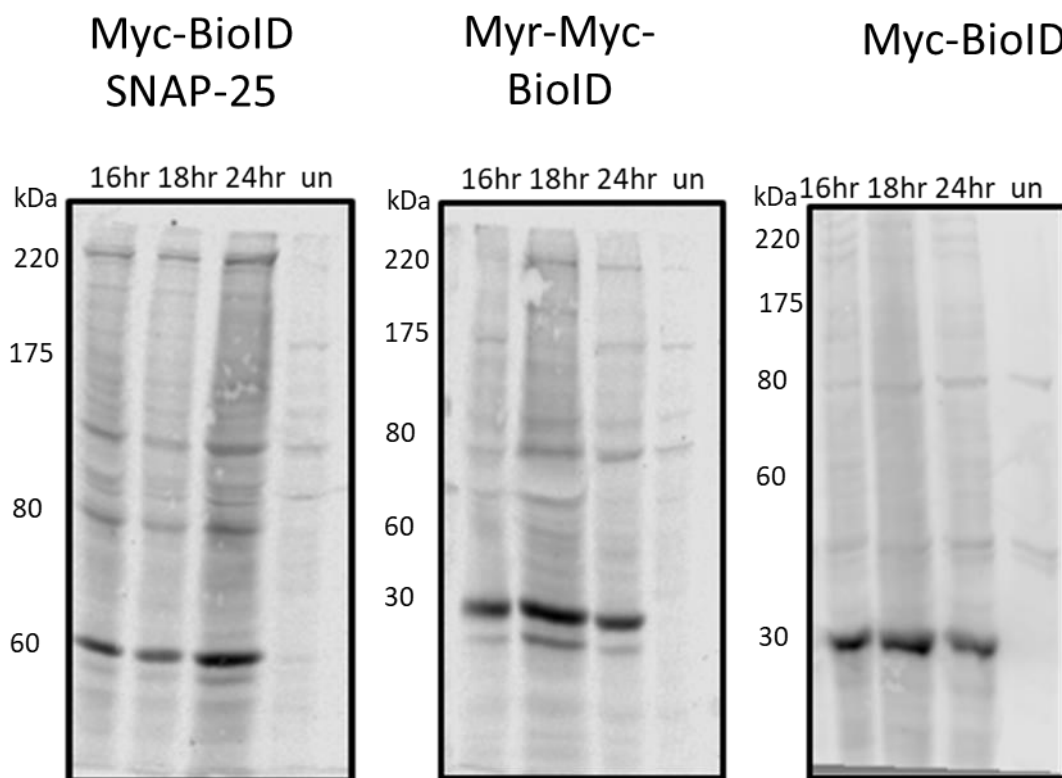


Figure B.3: Time-dependent biotinylation associated with Myc-BioID constructs in HEK293FT cells

HEK293FT cells transfected with Myc-BioID SNAP-25 on the left, Myr-Myc-BioID in the centre and Myc-BioID on the right were incubated with biotin (50 μ M) for 16 hrs, 18 hrs and 24 hours before harvesting labelled proteins by lysis. The lysates were resolved by SDS PAGE and labelled via western blotting, using streptavidin to determine if there was a differential in biotinylation between the time points, N=1.

B.1.3 Patterns of biotinylation in proteins extracted from Myc-BioIDtransfected cells reveal construct-selective biotinylation

To determine if the biotinylation between the three discrete constructs was selective, samples were resolved by SDS-PAGE and Western blotted before being incubated with HRPcoupled streptavidin. These streptavidin blots revealed a differential pattern, transfected/ untransfected and with/without biotin (Figure B.4). To investigate the promotion of cellular biotinylation in the absence and presence of exogenous biotin in cells expressing the distinct constructs, streptavidin was used to label biotin via western blot analysis (Figure B.4, B).

As a control, I treated culture wells containing no cells but media with and without biotin for 24 hrs. Although these incubations showed a background of serum proteins (Figure B.4 A and B lanes 1 and 2), there was no contamination of cellular biotinylation. In a treatment of untransfected cells, there was biotinylation of 4 major proteins at 220 kDa, 130 kDa and two bands in the region of 70 kDa. This reflects biotin's appearance within abundant mammalian carboxylases: CoA carboxylase (220 kDa), Pyruvate carboxylase (130 kDa), 3methylcrotonyl CoA Carboxylase (75 kDa) and Propionyl CoA Carboxylase (72 kDa) (Figure 4.8, B indicated with red triangle). Accordingly, the four mammalian carboxylases are present in all the my BioID transfection and represent a clear background contamination.

In addition, each of the constructs generates an additional discrete major biotin-dependent reactivity. The size of which, in each of the independently expressed constructs Myc-BioID (30 kDa), Myr-Myc-BioID (32 kDa) and Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 (60 kDa) (Figure 4.8, B). This reflects self-biotinylation of the BioID fusion constructs and reassures they harbour efficient intrinsic activity. In each of the conditions, transfected with the Myc-BioID constructs, there is evidence of additional biotinylation. This is evidenced by additional streptavidin reactivity when compared to the untransfected control.

In the transfected biotin-fed cultures, there is a visible differential streptavidin reactivity suggestive of the biotin-ligases' biotinylated differential targets (Figure 4.8, B). Suggesting that the additional biotin promotes experimental biotinylation over and above what is possible in the presence of just the biotin present in the media, (Roux et al., 2012).

Overall, these data indicate 1. All three of the Myc-BioID constructs have biotin-ligase reactivity 2. Selective proximity labelling of the distinct fusion constructs is observed.

Appendix

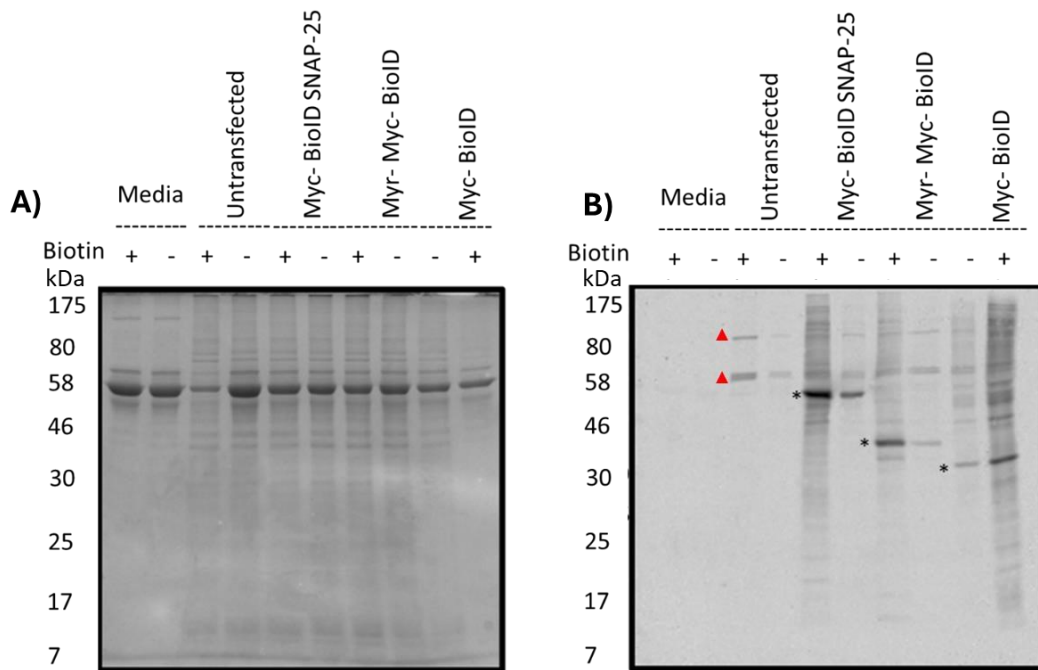


Figure B.4: HEK293FT cells transfected with Myc-BioID biotin ligases effectively biotinylated proteins in the presence of additional biotin supplementation.

A) Commisive for total protein for lysates of media only, untransfected cells or cells transfected with each of the Myc-BioID constructs.

B) Blot for streptavidin reactivity for the detection of biotinylated proteins. * corresponds to reactivity from the expressed Myc-BioID constructs, Δ for the known mammalian biotinylated carboxylases (Chandler and Ballard, 1986, Kirkeby et al., 1993) N=1.

B.1.4 Probing pull-down samples for known interactors of SNAP-25; TRIM9

Once it had been confirmed that the Myc-BioID- SNAP-25 construct could form a SNARE complex, had expected localisation and was active as a biotin ligase and that the pull down methodology was sufficient in extracting biotinylated proteins, an E3 ligase that has been shown to interact with SNAP-25 in other cellular models; TRIM9 was tested to see if it would be biotinylated by the Myc-BioID- SNAP-25 construct and pulled down by the BioID pull down.

The cell lysate and the streptavidin pull-down elution from each of the experimental conditions above were resolved on the same SDS-PAGE gel and labelled with fluorophoreconjugated antibodies by Western blotting. Initially, the samples were probed for streptavidin, then TRIM9 immunoreactivity (Figure 4.12, left). To directly compare the immunoactivity present in each sample.

TRIM9, an E3 ligase which interacts with SNAP-25 in neuronal models, is detectable in HEK293FT cells, albeit at low levels. TRIM9 was tested to see if it was biotinylated and pulled down in the Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 condition, which would indicate it was found in proximity to SNAP-25.

Side-by-side comparison of streptavidin immunoreactivity of each of the conditions allowed for the identification that the streptavidin intensity was strongest in the Myc-BioID sample, then the Myr-Myc-BioID sample, then finally the Myc-Bio-SNAP-25 sample, which would be expected due to the number of proteins accessible to be biotinylated.

The streptavidin immunoreactivity followed the same pattern as described above (Section 4.4.7). In the untransfected control, there were 4 bands present, whilst in the Myc-BioID, MyrMyc-BioID and Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 conditions, there was a laddering pattern in bands both in the lysate and less intense in the eluate.

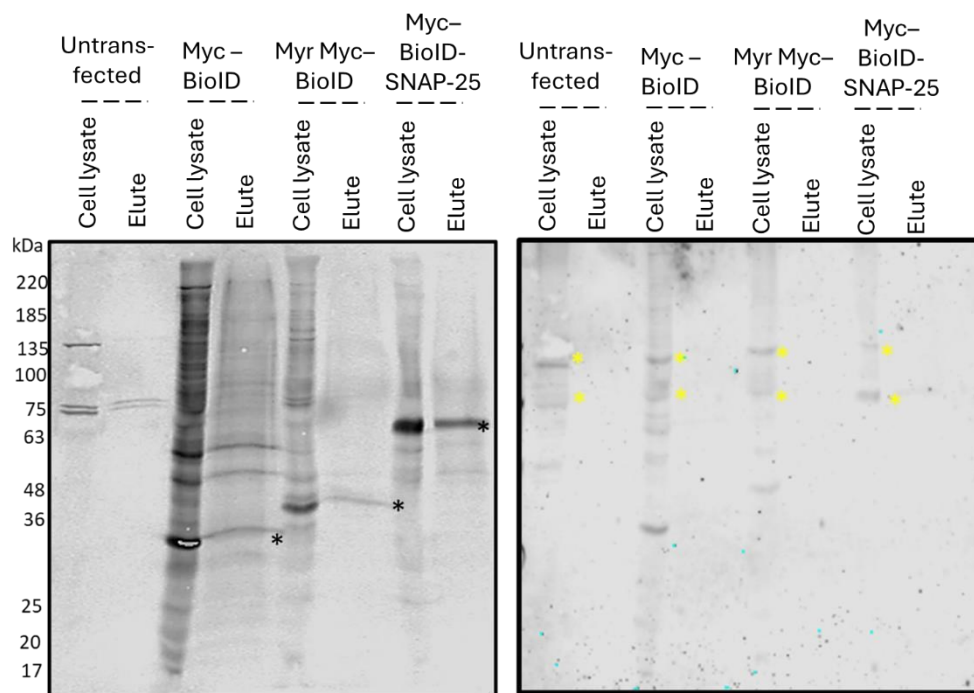


Figure B.5: TRIM9 is not detected by BioID streptavidin pulldown in Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 transfected HEK293FT cells

Cell lysate and elution from untransfected and HEK293FT cells transfected with Myc-BioID, Myr-Myc-BioID and Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 from streptavidin pull-down, stained with Streptavidin IR dye 800 on the left of the panel. Black asterisk marking immunoreactivity for Myc BioID constructs, and on the right immunoreactivity with TRIM9, where the isoforms are highlighted with the Yellow asterisk N=1.

Appendix

The membrane was reprobbed with Myc to confirm that the bands running at the expected molecular weights of each of the constructs were the constructs (Data not shown). These are marked with an asterisk for the band corresponding to each of the constructs in the streptavidin blot (Figure B.5, left).

The Lysate and eluate blots were reprobbed with Trim9 (Figure B.5, right). Trim9 immunoreactivity was detected in the cell lysate fraction of all four samples but not in the elute of any. This would be expected for the untransfected, and Myc- and Myr- condition, but the fact that SNAP-25 and Trim9 have been previously shown to interact it would have been hypothesised that TRIM9 would be biotinylated and pulled down in the Myc-BioID-SNAP-25 condition.

B.1.5 Setting up BioID for SNAP-25 in PC12 cells

The BioID pull-down protocol was carried out on lysates from PC12 cells transfected with Myc-BioID-SNAP-25. The sample fractions generated in the pull-down as described in the methods section 2.7.11 were subjected to separation via SDS-PAGE and stained with Coomassie stain to determine the proportion of total protein in each fraction.

The total protein showed that there was protein present in the lysis, supernatant and was depleted in the flow through. No detectable protein was present in the pellet in the washes or the elute fractions. There is depletion in the flow-through staining which suggests some protein is retained by the beads (Figure B.6).

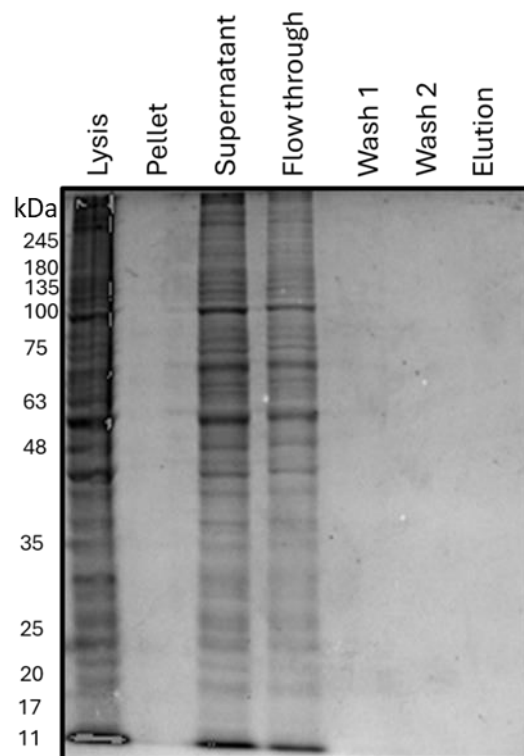


Figure B.6: Total protein is not pulled down in the streptavidin pull-downs

PC12 cells were transfected with Myc BioID SNAP-25, and the lysate was subjected to the streptavidin pull-down protocol. Pull-down fractions were run on a Coomassie gel in order to determine the presence of total protein in each fraction. Protein was detectable in the lysis and supernatant and depleted in the flowthrough, whilst no protein was detectable in the elution for a streptavidin pull-down, suggesting the specificity of pulled-down proteins, N=1.

B.1.6 Secondary only staining of Myc immunoprecipitations

Initially, the Myc pulldown elutions were done with SDS-PAGE sample buffer and boiled without Dithiothreitol (DTT), with DTT being added before the samples were run out on gels. However leaching of chains of the Myc antibody attached to the beads were observed with secondary only probing of the western blot membranes as such the bound proteins were then eluted via an acidic elution with 0.1 M glycine pH 2 then neutralised with tris base pH 8.5 whilst this reduced secondary only immunoreactivity this did not completely remove it which meant detection of proteins with antibodies of the same species (mouse) at 25 kDa, 50 kDa were not possible in the Myc pull downs even after optimisation (Figure B.7).

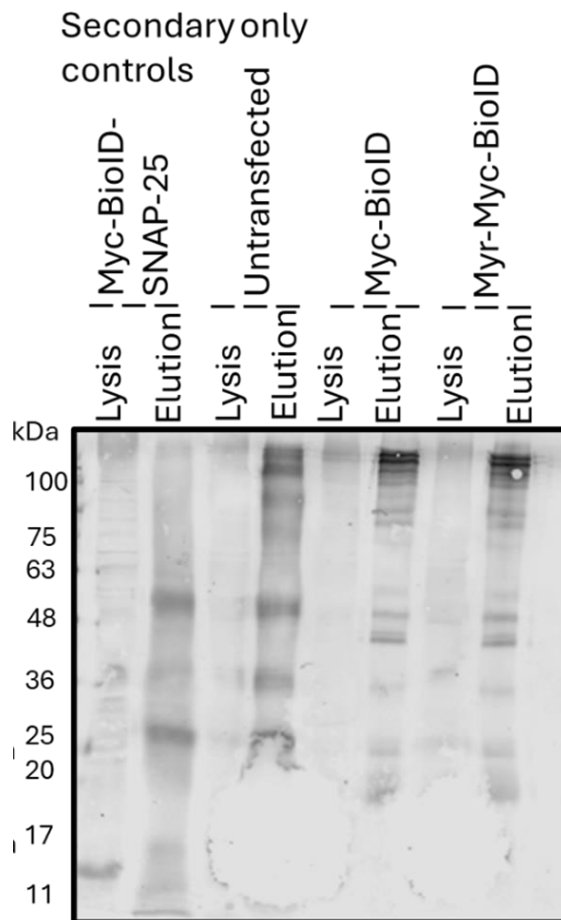


Figure B.7: Non-specific immunoreactivity in elution of Myc-pull downs

A secondary only staining displaying non-specific immunoreactivity in the Myc elution on all conditions in the regions of 25 kDa and 50 kDa.

Appendix C: Generation of CSP α -deficient PC12 cells

C.1 Genomic sequencing attempts

Genomic DNA was extracted from Parental, Lenti CRISPR, CD3 and CD5 PC12 cell lines.

Primers were designed to span the regions of the CD3 and CD5 CRISPR lesions (Figure C.1, A). The CD3 primer set led to an amplification of the expected size in the parental, Lenti CRISPR and CD5 but not the CD3 lines. Whilst the CD5 primer pair were able to generate an amplification in all but to a lower intensity in the CD5 line, with the expression of two bands. Using the FWD primer of

the CD3 primer pair and the REV primer of the CD5 set led to the amplification of the expected size in the parental, Lenti CRISPR and in CD5, but no amplification was generated in the CD3 line.

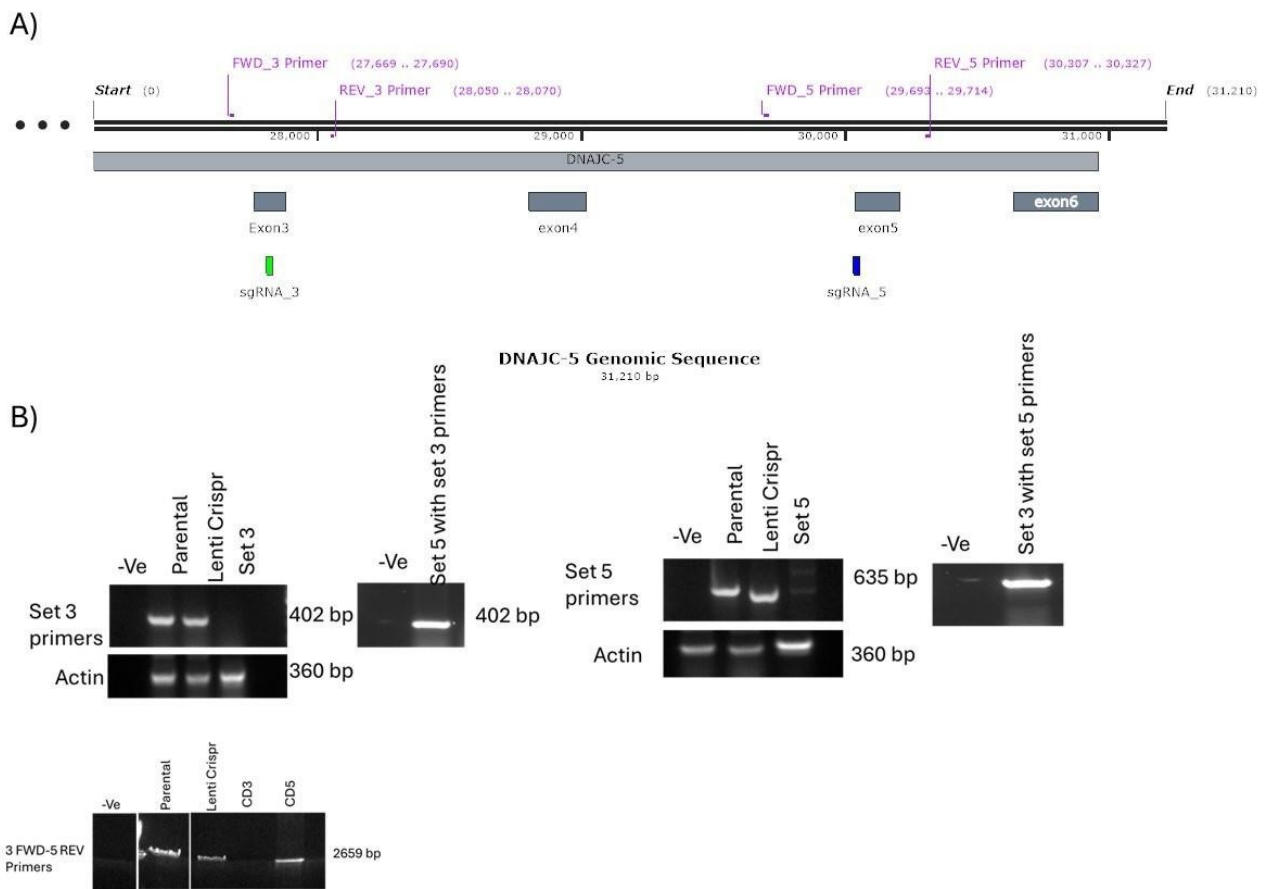


Figure C.1: PCR amplification of CRISPR lesion sites in genomic DNA extracted from control and CSP α -deficient PC12 cell lines. A) Location of primers used to amplify across CRISPR lesions from genomic DNA extracted from Parental, Lenti CRISPR, CD3 and CD5 PC12 cell lines, B) Attempted amplification of CSP α regions with primers depicted in the schematic.

Appendix

C.2 CD3 cDNA sequencing example

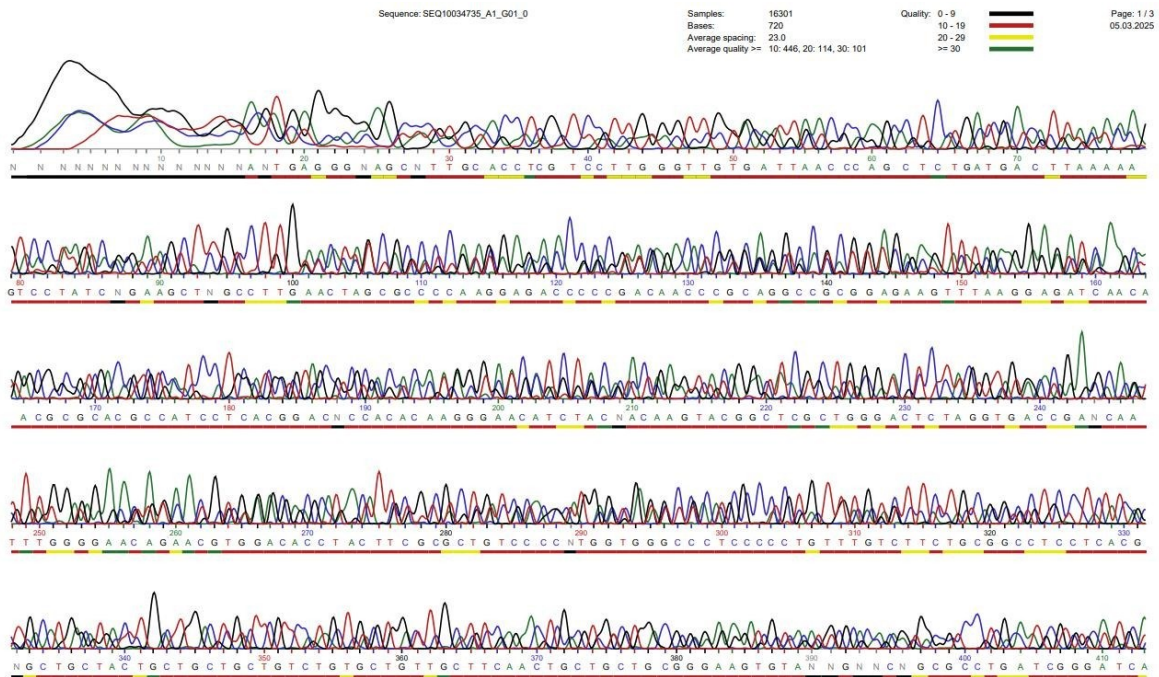


Figure C.2: Example of sequencing of CD3 from cDNA after amplification by PCR, with overlapping sequences.

C.3 Preliminary investigation into alternative protein disposal pathways

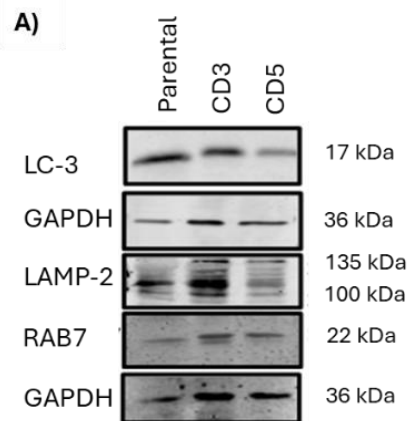


Figure C.3: PC12 CSP α deficient cells lines have no evidence for autophagic origin but evidence of protein disorder A) Parental and PC12 CSP α deficit CD3 and CD5 cells lysates 20 μ g were resolved by SDS-PAGE and labelled with antibodies by western blotting of proteins involved in protein removal pathways: LC3 (autophagy), LAMP2 (lysosomes) and RAB7 (late endocytic pathway).

C.4 Quantification of protein altered in the cellular lysates submitted for labelfree proteomics

Proteins that were altered in the CSP α -deficient lines were blotted alongside some proteins that had not been observed to change in the samples sent for mass spectroscopy.

CSP α was blotted for in a differentiated parental PC12 sample alongside the undifferentiated parental cell lysates and CD3 and CD5 extracted and sent for proteomics. Exhibiting strong immunoreactivity in the differentiated sample and weak immunoreactivity in the parental line, and no expression in the CD lines.

SNAP-25 is present with strong immunoreactivity at the expected molecular weight in the parental cell lines, but is unquantifiable in the CSP α -deficient lines, as previously observed in the initial blotting when the lines were first generated.

The Dynamin-1 antibody used here (Protein Tech 18205-1-AP) is able to detect both Dynamin-1 and Dynamin-2. In the parental line, two bands are present in all samples; however, in the CSP α -deficient samples, whilst the top band is present in all samples, the lower band is absent in 3 of the 4 CD3 samples and in one of the CD5 samples. In Faire et al, the higher molecular weight polypeptide of the doublet was designated Dynamin 1, with the lower as Dynamin-2 (Faire et al., 1992). Suggesting that in the CSP α deficient lines there may be an effect on both Dynamin-1, which is observed in the CSP α $-/-$ mouse and to a greater extent, Dynamin-2, which has not been reported in other CSP α knockout models. Dynamin-1 is enriched within the brain, localised to the presynaptic terminal, whilst Dynamin-2 has a widespread tissue distribution (Praefcke & McMahon, 2004).

Syntaxin, which was investigated as an interacting partner of SNAP-25, exhibited a decrease of 13% in the CD3 line and a slight increase of 6% in the CD5 line compared to the parental line, suggesting there may be a small effect on other proteins involved in exocytosis.

Trk B follows the same pattern as SNAP-25 present in the parental line, but unquantifiable in the CSP α -deficient lines. Actin and PSD95 are consistent across all samples, suggesting no overall structural loss between the parental and the CSP α -deficient lines, which supports the fact that there is no global change observed in the Coomassie gels (and unshown silverstained SDS-PAGE gels).

Appendix

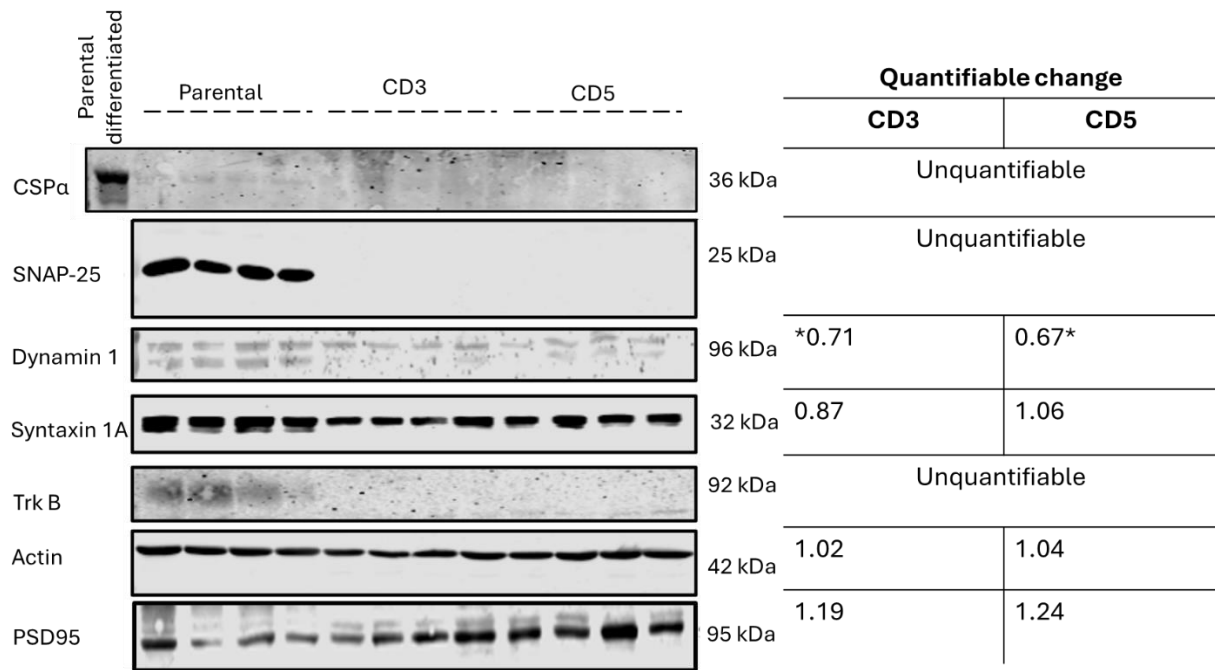


Figure C.4: Distinct alterations in selective proteins between parental and PC12 CSP α deficient CD3 and CD5 cells. 20 μ g fractions of the supernatants that were submitted for mass spectroscopy were run on SDS-PAGE gels and labelled with fluorophore-conjugated antibodies by western blotting for proteins that had been noted to be altered in the lines previously as well as synaptic markers. Change quantified in comparison to parental after normalisation. *covers both upper and lower bands corresponding to Dyn-1 and Dyn-2.

C.5 Alterations in the expression of neuronal-associated proteins

As PC12 cells were used as a neuronal-like model, and it can be noted that phenotypically the CSP α -deficient cells were less neuronal-like than the parental cells, an unbiased approach was undertaken to determine how the synaptic up- and down-regulated protein alterations were using SYNGO. A synaptic gene-ontology evidence-based curated resource for synapse function and gene enrichment studies was used to determine how synapse-like the CSP α -deficient cell lines were.

For each ontology term, SYNGO uses a one-sided Fisher's exact test to compare the terms I input to the selected background set, which was set to rat brain expressed proteins containing 18035 unique genes in total, with 1591 SYNGO annotated genes.

Using SYNGO highlights that there are a lack of synaptic proteins in the CSP α -deficient cells.

Of the downregulated proteins, 38 were mapped to unique SYNGO annotated genes, for

which 26 genes had a cellular component annotation with 71 annotations in total (as a gene can have multiple annotations), and 24 had a biological process with 48 annotations

Function terms that were downregulated were categorised into: synaptic assembly, regulation of the post-synapse, regulation of synaptic endocytosis, synaptic vesicle endocytosis, presynaptic modulation of chemical synaptic transmission modulation of chemical synaptic transmission, and regulation of the presynapse.

For up-regulated only two proteins were mapped in SYNGO but upon reviewing these hits it was noted that these proteins were ubiquitous across cell types and as such, were not synaptic-specific proteins.

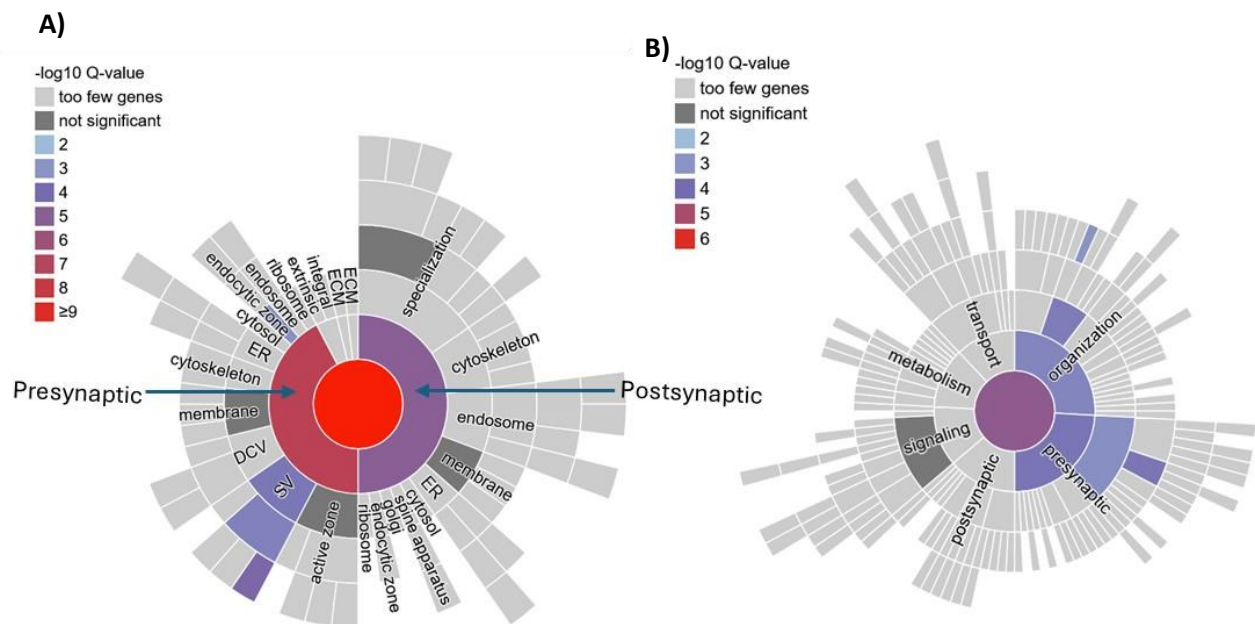


Figure C.5 SYNGO analysis of downregulated proteins enrichment analysis of A) synaptic location and B) synaptic function. Colour coding based on enrichment q- q-values of SYNGO ontology enrichment in the downregulated proteins expressed in the PC12 CSP α deficit CD3 and CD5 cells identified by mass spectroscopy and below a tabulation of the proteins determined to have a neuronal association and how they were determined to be altered in between the parental and CD lines.

Appendix

C.6 Label-free proteomic readout

Table C1: Proteins down-regulated in the CD3 and CD5 lines identified by label-free proteomics

Protein Group	Protein ID	Accession	Significance	Coverage (%)	#Peptides	#Unique	PTM	Avg. Mass	Sample Profile	Group Profile	Description
1 60	22565	I1A0A8L2 Q7B91A0 ABL2Q7B 9_BAT	200	7	2	2	N	57625			Pyruvate kinase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pkm PE=1 SV=1
2 124	22589	I1A0A8I6 ANFQ1A0 ARIGANE0 _BAT	200	14	5	5	Y	73161			Dihydropyrimidinase-related protein 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Dpysl2 PE=1 SV=1
3 227	373	P5039B1 GDIA_BAT	200	12	4	4	Y	50537			Rab GDP dissociation inhibitor alpha OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Gdi1 PE=1 SV=1
4 268	22984	I1A0A8L2 Q9951A0 ABL2Q99 6_BAT	200	11	2	2	Y	50620			Elongation factor 1-alpha OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Eef1a2 PE=3 SV=1
5 268	687	P626321E F1A2_BAT	200	11	2	2	Y	50454			Elongation factor 1-alpha 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Eef1a2 PE=1 SV=1
6 277	436	Q070091 CAN2_BA I	200	4	2	2	Y	79919			Calpain-2 catalytic subunit OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Capn2 PE=1 SV=3
7 342	793	P141731 DDC_BAT	200	4	1	1	N	54053			Aromatic-L-amino-acid decarboxylase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ddc PE=1 SV=1
8 424	23729	I1E1M6C 71E1M6C 7_BAT	200	4	1	1	Y	35628			Heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein A3-like OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=LOC120096281 PE=1 SV=4
9 437	607	P5657411 DHP_BAT	200	6	2	2	Y	50967			Isocitrate dehydrogenase [NADP], mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Idh2 PE=1 SV=2
10 453	1133	Q9JHLD1 DPYL6_BA I	200	5	2	2	N	61540			Dihydropyrimidinase-related protein 5 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Dpysl5 PE=1 SV=1
11 489	1588	P6851111 433F_BAT	200	23	5	5	N	28212			14-3-3 protein eta OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ywhah PE=1 SV=2
12 524	779	Q939B71 NSE1C_B AT	200	20	6	6	N	40680			NSFL1 cofactor p47 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Nstl1c PE=1 SV=1
13 553	22954	I1A0A8I6 AK101A0A RISAK10 BAT	200	11	3	3	Y	54550			Fascin OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Fscn1 PE=3 SV=1
14 625	1348	P6198311 433G_BAT	200	6	1	1	N	28303			14-3-3 protein gamma OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ywhag PE=1 SV=2
15 696	3011	Q6X731G DIR1_BAT	200	7	2	2	N	23407			Rho GDP-dissociation inhibitor 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Arhgdia PE=1 SV=1
16 806	2104	P1134B1 DHPR_BA I	200	13	2	2	Y	25552			Dihydropteridine reductase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Qdpr PE=1 SV=1
17 816	1626	Q889891 MDHC_BA I	200	22	5	5	Y	36483			Malate dehydrogenase, cytoplasmic OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Mdh1 PE=1 SV=3
18 833	1422	Q6Q0N11 CNDP2_B AT	200	8	2	2	N	52893			Cytosolic non-specific dipeptidase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Cndo2 PE=1 SV=1

Appendix

19	843	1861	P41365 I DHG1_RA I	200	11	2	2	Y	42851		Isocitrate dehydrogenase [NAD] subunit gamma 1, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=ldh3g PE=1 SV=2
20	844	1873	P54313 I GRR2_RA I	200	9	3	3	Y	37331		Guanine nucleotide-binding protein G(i)/G(s)/G(t) subunit beta-2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Gnb2 PE=1 SV=4
21	895	1548	Q99NA5 I DH3A_RA I	200	19	5	5	Y	39614		Isocitrate dehydrogenase [NAD] subunit alpha, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=ldh3a PE=1 SV=1
22	895	23645	I E11NF7 I E11NF7 BAT	200	18	5	5	Y	41434		Isocitrate dehydrogenase [NAD] subunit, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=ldh3a PE=3 SV=3
23	909	23679	I A0A0G 2K737 A0 A0G2K73 Z_BAT	200	43	7	7	Y	32700		Thioredoxin-like 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Txn1 PE=1 SV=1
24	1393	4780	Q32PK2 I AIMP2_RA I	200	3	1	1	N	35443		Aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase complex-interacting multifunctional protein 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Aimp2 PE=2 SV=1
25	1593	25324	I A6B0C6 I A6B0C6 BAT	200	12	1	1	N	22094		Biliverdin reductase B OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Bhvb PE=1 SV=1
26	266	477	P04785 P DIA1_BAT	156.54	25	11	11	N	56951		Protein disulfide-isomerase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=P4hb PE=1 SV=2
27	2110	26917	I B0K01 A B0K014 _BAT	156.54	15	2	2	N	23394		D-aminoacyl-tRNA deacylase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Dtd1 PE=1 SV=1
28	2328	27368	I D3Z7R S D3Z7R9 _BAT	153.53	24	3	3	Y	17282		peptidylprolyl isomerase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Fkbp2 PE=4 SV=2
29	3269	29011	I D4A8M S D4A8M S_BAT	153.53	12	1	1	Y	10834		Small nuclear ribonucleoprotein E OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Snrpept2 PE=3 SV=1
30	975	24376	Q9ES54 I NPL4_RA	150.51	8	2	2	Y	68056		Nuclear protein localization protein 4 homolog OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Nplc4 PE=1 SV=3
31	997	2394	Q66HG5 I TMR52_B AT	147.5	5	2	2	Y	75586		Transmembrane 9 superfamily member 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Tm9sf2 PE=2 SV=1
32	122	108	Q9ER34 I ACON_RA I	145.07	16	7	7	Y	85433		Aconitate hydratase, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Aco2 PE=1 SV=2
33	442	947	Q58K1 I E4A2_BAT	143.11	4	1	1	N	46402		Eukaryotic initiation factor 4A-II OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Eif4a2 PE=1 SV=1
34	1755	25417	I A0A8R6 A E1A0A8 E A0A8E_RA I	142.73	9	1	1	N	23469		small monomeric GTPase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rab5b PE=1 SV=1
35	235	1043	P04906 I GSTM1_B AT	142.06	6	1	1	N	25914		Glutathione S-transferase Mu 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Gstm1 PE=1 SV=2

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36	1829	25301	IIG3V7J2 IG3V7J2 BAT	136.71	10	2	2	Y	34385		Protein activator of interferon induced protein kinase EIF2AK2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Prkra PE=1 SV=1
37	620	764	Q9ZLQIV DACC1_BA I	134.66	25	6	6	Y	30756		Non-selective voltage-gated ion channel VDACC1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Vdac1 PE=1 SV=4
38	1380	3214	Q6RUVS1 RAC1_BAT	133.57	15	2	2	Y	21450		Ras-related G3 botulinum toxin substrate 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rac1 PE=1 SV=1
39	1725	2847	M0BC9B1 RAB5A_BA I	133.09	24	2	2	Y	23625		Ras-related protein Rab-5A OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rab5a PE=2 SV=1
40	1725	24517	I1ADAB5 ZS7E1A0A BISZS7E BAT	133.09	24	2	2	Y	23615		small monomeric GTPase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rab5a PE=1 SV=1
41	1048	2538	P15791IK CC2D_BA I	132.57	3	1	1	N	60081		Calcium/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase type II subunit delta OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Camk2d PE=1 SV=1
42	1465	24472	I1F1M97 B1F1M97 B_BAT	129.31	3	1	1	N	36278		Inositol-1-monophosphatase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Impa1 PE=1 SV=2
43	925	1791	P31044IP ERP1_BAT	128.1	14	2	2	N	20801		Phosphatidylethanolamine-binding protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pebp1 PE=1 SV=3
44	1697	26985	P70550IR ABBB_BAT	125.81	6	1	1	N	23603		Ras-related protein Rab-8B OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rab8b PE=1 SV=1
45	136	178	Q4OR84I TUBB3_BAT	124.65	9	2	2	N	50419		Tubulin beta-3 chain OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Tubb3 PE=1 SV=1
46	1190	4474	Q6PEC4I SKP1_BAT	124.07	26	4	4	N	18672		S-phase kinase-associated protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Skp1 PE=1 SV=3
47	673	1486	P84092IA P2M1_BA I	121.2	21	6	6	Y	49655		AP-2 complex subunit mu OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ap2m1 PE=1 SV=1
48	234	523	P00388I NCFR_BA I	117.99	7	3	3	Y	76963		NADPH-cytochrome P450 reductase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Por PE=1 SV=3
49	1344	4294	Q6AYP5I CADM1_B AI	116.48	8	2	2	Y	51854		Cell adhesion molecule 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Cadm1 PE=1 SV=1
50	162	22960	I1F1M9N B1F1M9N B_BAT	116.02	0	1	1	N	434779		Ankyrin 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ank2 PE=1 SV=4
51	450	626	P63004IL IS1_BAT	112.33	25	7	7	Y	46670		Platelet-activating factor acetylhydrolase IB subunit alpha OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pafah1b1 PE=1 SV=2
52	1893	61072	I1ADAB5 GAI19IA0 ARIRGA19 _BAT	110.97	4	1	1	N	47436		non-specific serine/threonine protein kinase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Vrk1 PE=1 SV=1
53	723	3469	P00P31I CALM3_B AI	110.73	52	7	7	Y	16838		Calmodulin-3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Calm3 PE=1 SV=1
54	723	24995	P00P30I CALM2_B AI	110.73	52	7	7	Y	16838		Calmodulin-2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Calm2 PE=1 SV=1




















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55	723	24996	P0QP29I CALM1_B AI	110.73	52	7	7	Y	16838		Calmodulin-1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Calm1 PE=1 SV=1
56	1111	2990	Q8K1Q0I NMT1_BA I	107.48	4	1	1	N	56860		Glycylpeptide N-tetradecanoyltransferase 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Nmt1 PE=1 SV=1
57	1111	24565	I1JA0A836 ATE41A0A SIGATE4_BAT	107.48	4	1	1	N	57227		Glycylpeptide N-tetradecanoyltransferase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Nmt1 PE=1 SV=1
58	2716	28583	I1JARI5V1 IARI5V1_BAT	105.69	7	1	1	N	38540		Protein phosphatase 1, regulatory (inhibitor) subunit 8 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ppp1r8 PE=1 SV=1
59	551	23625	I1IRBPXU1 IIRBPXU4_BAT	97.23	12	4	4	Y	54610		Thioredoxin reductase 1, cytoplasmic OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Txnrd1 PE=1 SV=3
60	18	22615	I1JA0A836 AC701A0 AR6AAG70_BAT	95.63	37	43	43	Y	189019		Clathrin heavy chain OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Cltc PE=1 SV=1
61	556	1634	Q62981I SCFD1_B AI	95.27	5	2	2	N	72263		Sec1 family domain-containing protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Scfd1 PE=1 SV=1
62	2490	5694	Q9WU49I CHSP1_B AI	95.18	35	2	2	N	15906		Calcium-regulated heat stable protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Carhsp1 PE=1 SV=1
63	1750	4243	Q35263I PA1B3_BA I	94.18	4	1	1	N	25863		Platelet-activating factor acetylhydrolase 1B subunit alpha1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pafah1b3 PE=1 SV=1
64	2180	26206	I1E9PTV0 IE9PTV0_BAT	94.03	6	1	1	Y	22835		guanylate kinase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Guk1 PE=3 SV=3
65	406	972	Q9ER24I ATX10_BA I	93.72	4	2	2	Y	53727		Ataxin-10 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Atxn10 PE=1 SV=1
66	27	22646	I1G3V7Q 7IG3V7Q2_BAT	92.07	11	13	13	N	188831		IQ motif containing GTPase activating protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ilgap1 PE=1 SV=1
67	680	2119	Q6Q0N3I NTSD2_B AI	91.94	2	1	1	N	63653		5'-nucleotidase domain-containing protein 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=NT5dc2 PE=2 SV=2
68	1068	24910	I1JA0A836 AAB1A0A B16A1A8_B AI	91.44	8	3	3	Y	62499		Translation initiation factor eIF2B subunit delta OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=EIF2b4 PE=1 SV=1
69	1068	3814	Q63186I EIF2B_BA I	91.44	9	3	3	Y	57809		Translation initiation factor eIF2B subunit delta OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=EIF2b4 PE=2 SV=1
70	297	262	Q5RKH0I WDR1_BA I	90.88	10	4	4	Y	66182		WD repeat-containing protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Wdr1 PE=1 SV=3
71	1077	4310	Q9Z2E6I CTBP1_BA I	90.36	12	3	3	Y	46628		C-terminal-binding protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ctbp1 PE=1 SV=3
72	1077	25884	I1JA0A836 ZSG11A0 A8IS7SG1_BAT	90.36	14	3	3	Y	40506		C-terminal binding protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ctbp1 PE=1 SV=1

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73	1077	25885	I1F7FG3 11F7FG31 _BAT	90.36	13	3	3	Y	42717		C-terminal binding protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ctbp1 PE=1 SV=2
74	1563	3238	QSU2111 SMX3_BAT	89.84	35	3	3	N	18762		Sorting nexin-3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Sm3 PE=1 SV=1
75	1005	24616	I1AQAAGG 2K1851A0 A0G2K18 _RAT	87.71	8	2	2	N	34087		Arp2/3 complex 34 kDa subunit OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Arpc2 PE=1 SV=1
76	1005	2946	P859701A RPC2_BAT	87.71	8	2	2	N	34391		Actin-related protein 2/3 complex subunit 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Arpc2 PE=1 SV=1
77	831	23708	I1AQAAGG ADA31A0A R16ADA3 _BAT	87.24	12	3	3	Y	53769		Glutathione reductase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Gsr PE=1 SV=1
78	1090	24359	I1F7E284 1F7E284 _BAT	86.08	10	2	2	Y	46609		Vacuolar protein sorting 4 homolog B OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Vps4b PE=1 SV=1
79	1090	24360	I1AQAAGG GHR01A0 AR16GHR0 _BAT	86.08	9	2	2	Y	49451		vesicle-fusing ATPase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Vps4b PE=1 SV=1
80	1264	3457	P629691 HINT1_BA I	82.94	21	2	2	Y	13777		Adenosine 5'- monophosphoramidase HINT1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hint1 PE=1 SV=5
81	682	1184	Q4V7C71 ARBP3_BAT	81.05	23	5	5	Y	47357		Actin-related protein 3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Actr3 PE=1 SV=1
82	106	141	Q044621 SVVC_BAT	80.2	9	7	7	Y	140368		Valine--tRNA ligase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Vars1 PE=2 SV=2
83	30	31	Q971P21 ACTN1_B AT	79.59	2	1	1	Y	102960		Alpha-actinin-1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Actn1 PE=1 SV=1
84	2121	42148	I1D3ZHR 1D3ZHR _BAT	78.19	3	1	1	N	50347		Serine/threonine-protein phosphatase 2A 56 kDa regulatory subunit OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ppp2r5e PE=1 SV=1
85	1545	4517	P320891T YTP_BAT	78.17	4	1	1	N	33835		Tricarboxylate transport protein, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Sic25a1 PE=1 SV=1
86	1545	25477	I1AQAAGG AEC61A0 AR16AEC6 _BAT	78.17	4	1	1	N	32446		Citrate transport protein OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Sic25a1 PE=1 SV=1
87	207	23082	I1D4A13 31D4A13 _BAT	77.49	19	8	8	Y	71401		H(+)-transporting two-sector ATPase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Atp6v1a PE=1 SV=2
88	53	125	P066811A 11A1_BAT	76.86	10	8	8	Y	113054		Sodium/potassium- transporting ATPase subunit alpha-1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Atp1a1 PE=1 SV=1
89	1461	3661	Q971181 PTRP3_BA I	76.24	3	1	1	Y	56716		Polypyrimidine tract-binding protein 3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ptbp3 PE=2 SV=1
90	121	442	Q9JLA31U GRG1_BA I	76.11	2	2	2	N	176430		UDP-glucose:glycoprotein glucosyltransferase 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ugg1 PE=1 SV=2




















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91	495	23859	I: F1LQ7 F1LQ7 BAT	74.53	2	1	1	N	73697		phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylkinase (GTP) OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pck2 PE=1 SV=3
92	329	23254	I: D3ZUY D3ZUY R_BAT	74.48	7	5	5	Y	105589		AP-2 complex subunit alpha OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ap2a1 PE=1 SV=2
93	1486	25085	I: A0A0G 2K9771A0 A0G2K97 7_BAT	73.94	2	1	1	N	115930		Golgin A2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Golga2 PE=1 SV=1
94	1235	3267	P5640J5 TRN3_BAT	71.54	5	2	2	N	87111		Striatin-3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Strn3 PE=1 SV=2
95	2648	43578	Q5R10R1 CSTF1_RA I	70.25	4	1	1	N	48382		Cleavage stimulation factor subunit 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Cstf1 PE=2 SV=1
96	967	24407	I: D4A85 Z1D4A85 7_BAT	69.12	6	4	4	Y	116650		Importin 9 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ipo9 PE=4 SV=3
97	1019	2225	Q355091 BR11B_RA I	68.75	9	2	2	N	24488		Ras-related protein Rab-11B OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rab11b PE=1 SV=4
98	134	311	Q4F7R1P SMD2_RA I	68.39	23	15	15	Y	100188		26S proteasome non-ATPase regulatory subunit 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Psm2 PE=1 SV=1
99	2432	28881	I: D3ZDU D3ZDU 5_BAT	67.78	9	1	1	N	16027		Profilin OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pfn2 PE=3 SV=1
100	2432	9077	Q5EPC61 PROF2_R AT	67.78	10	1	1	N	15002		Profilin-2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pfn2 PE=1 SV=3
101	1102	3097	Q5H2V91 PP1R7_RA I	66.92	7	2	2	N	41297		Protein phosphatase 1 regulatory subunit 7 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ppp1r7 PE=1 SV=1
102	41	22677	I: A6JRO1 J6JRO1 BAT	66.28	19	15	15	Y	141695		High density lipoprotein binding protein OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hdlbp PE=1 SV=1
103	1514	3360	Q628471 ADDC_RA I	66.05	4	2	2	N	78818		Gamma-adducin OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Add3 PE=1 SV=3
104	1570	26041	I: A0A815 YBER1A0A B1YBER BAT	64.62	18	4	4	N	34884		Purine rich element binding protein A OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pura PE=1 SV=1
105	1076	2986	P840831A BES_BAT	64.1	14	2	2	N	20530		ADP-ribosylation factor 5 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Arf5 PE=1 SV=2
106	2138	26981	I: D3ZYH Z1D3ZYH 3_BAT	63.66	18	2	2	Y	18593		diphosphoinositol- polyphosphate diphosphatase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Nudt11 PE=3 SV=1
107	1648	26063	I: A0A815 ZBF1A0A B1ZBFD BAT	62.89	15	2	2	N	21511		Tumor protein D52 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Tpd52 PE=1 SV=1
108	1648	26150	I: A0A0G 2K8651A0 A0G2K86 5_BAT	62.89	12	2	2	N	26786		Tumor protein D52 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Tpd52 PE=1 SV=2
109	1688	2806	Q6346B1 KPRIA_BAT	62.62	8	2	2	Y	39436		Phosphoribosyl pyrophosphate synthase- associated protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Prpsap1 PE=1 SV=1




















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110	557	24150	I:IA0A818 YFSRIA06 RBYF55 _BAT	62.08	12	4	4	N	56502		Histidine--tRNA ligase, cytoplasmic OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hars1 PE=1 SV=1
111	63	104	Q66X931 SND1_BA I	61.67	12	9	9	Y	101952		Staphylococcal nuclease domain-containing protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Snd1 PE=1 SV=1
112	2543	4668	A2BLW11 TOLIP_BA I	61.37	5	1	1	N	30315		Toll-interacting protein OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Tolip PE=1 SV=1
113	128	22958	I:IA0A816 A0711A0 AR6AU71 _BAT	59.73	2	2	2	N	108283		Hexokinase-1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hk1 PE=1 SV=1
114	306	22935	I:IG3V8A 5IG3V8A 5_BAT	59.6	13	8	8	N	91727		Vacuolar protein sorting-associated protein 35 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Vps35 PE=1 SV=1
115	2078	7278	P630291T CTP_BAT	59.08	8	1	1	Y	19462		Translationally-controlled tumor protein OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Tpt1 PE=1 SV=1
116	1039	25564	I:IA0A816 AAH51A0 AR6AAH5 _BAT	58.24	2	1	1	N	106176		O-GlcNAcase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Oga PE=1 SV=1
117	1769	24670	I:IF2Z3T7 IF2Z3T7 _BAT	58.15	20	4	4	N	32033		Isochorismatase domain-containing protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Isoc1 PE=1 SV=1
118	921	41834	I:ID3ZV6 8ID3ZV6 8_BAT	57.15	3	1	1	Y	79364		Adaptor protein, phosphotyrosine interacting with PH domain and leucine zipper 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Appl1 PE=1 SV=4
119	2661	42222	Q6H2Y01 UBXNA_B AT	54.36	4	1	1	N	56394		UBX domain-containing protein 4 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ubx4 PE=1 SV=1
120	491	952	P079431A LDR_BAT	54.3	9	2	2	Y	35797		Aldo-keto reductase family 1 member B1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Akr1b1 PE=1 SV=3
121	1356	24235	I:IF7FF51 IF7FF51 _BAT	52.4	20	4	4	Y	39209		Serine/threonine-protein phosphatase 2A activator OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ptpa PE=1 SV=1
122	1463	24321	I:IA0A812 QLO81A0 ABL2OLO 8_BAT	52.23	2	1	1	Y	86292		Amyloid-beta A4 protein OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=App PE=1 SV=1
123	1463	24322	P085921A 4_BAT	52.23	2	1	1	Y	86704		Amyloid-beta precursor protein OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=App PE=1 SV=2
124	414	716	Q091751 AMPR_BA I	50.03	7	3	3	Y	72620		Aminopeptidase B OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rnpep PE=1 SV=2
125	414	23024	I:IG3V6V 1IG3V6V 1_BAT	50.03	7	3	3	Y	72689		Arginyl aminopeptidase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rnpep PE=3 SV=1
126	579	26713	I:IG3V66 1IG3V66 1_BAT	49.29	2	2	2	Y	166740		Bromodomain adjacent to zinc finger domain, 1B OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Bar1b PE=1 SV=2
127	1544	4241	ADJPM91E JF31_BAT	48.26	14	3	3	Y	29187		Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 3 subunit J OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Elf3 PE=1 SV=1









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128	39	22745	I1D3ZU1 I1D3ZU1 3_BAT	46.49	8	10	10	N	175704		Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4 gamma 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Elf4g1 PE=1 SV=1
129	756	24098	I1A08L2 Q1E61A0A BL2Q1E6 BAT	46.01	14	3	3	Y	34939		Omega-amidase NIT2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Nit2 PE=1 SV=1
130	640	24270	I1Q4V8B9 JQ4V8B9 BAT	45.76	8	3	3	N	57023		UTP--glucose-1-phosphate uridylyltransferase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ugp2 PE=1 SV=1
131	588	2001	Q633551 MYO1C_B AT	45.64	2	2	2	N	119811		Unconventional myosin-Ic OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Myo1c PE=1 SV=2
132	398	22994	I1D3ZIH9 JQ3ZIH9 BAT	45.53	7	3	3	N	65352		Malic enzyme OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Me2 PE=1 SV=1
133	778	41829	Q2A1211 FTO_BAT	45.24	5	2	2	Y	57972		Alpha-ketoglutarate-dependent dioxygenase FTO OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Fto PE=2 SV=1
134	1673	60918	Q90W621 VAC14_B AT	45.13	2	1	1	N	88068		Protein VAC14 homolog OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Vac14 PE=1 SV=1
135	1681	27299	I1A0AR6 AFM71A0 AB16AFM7 _BAT	44.79	2	1	1	N	103641		SCY1 like pseudokinase 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Scyl2 PE=1 SV=1
136	405	1784	P094951T PM4_BAT	44.59	17	3	3	Y	28510		Tropomyosin alpha-4 chain OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Tpm4 PE=1 SV=3
137	2396	61112	I1G3V81 B1G3V81 B_BAT	44.39	4	1	1	N	42322		Parvin, alpha OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Parva PE=1 SV=1
138	906	2244	P242681 CATD_BAT	43	4	1	1	Y	44681		Cathepsin D OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ctsd PE=1 SV=1
139	1711	5495	P390691K AD1_BAT	42.59	13	2	2	N	21584		Adenylate kinase isoenzyme 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ak1 PE=1 SV=3
140	221	515	P241561T HQP1_BA I	42.2	7	4	4	Y	78386		Thimet oligopeptidase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Thop1 PE=1 SV=4
141	1868	41967	I1Q6P2A S1Q6P2A S_BAT	42.13	7	1	1	N	25494		GTP-AMP phosphotransferase AK3, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=AK3 PE=3 SV=1
142	1012	3427	P840791A PE1_BAT	41.87	20	3	3	Y	20697		ADP-ribosylation factor 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Arf1 PE=1 SV=2
143	2493	6465	Q352641 PA1B2_BA I	41.7	22	3	3	Y	25581		Platelet-activating factor acetylhydrolase IB subunit alpha2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pafah1b2 PE=1 SV=1
144	1506	25790	I1G3V71 B1G3V71B _BAT	41.46	6	1	1	N	26143		V-type proton ATPase subunit E 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Atp6v1e1 PE=3 SV=1
145	2809	42155	I1A0AR6 ACK11A0 AB16ACK1 _BAT	40.24	8	1	1	Y	26591		Dynactin subunit 3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Dctn3 PE=1 SV=1
146	1550	24956	Q99M151 PCYOX_B AT	40.12	3	1	1	N	56288		Prenylcysteine oxidase 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pcyox1 PE=1 SV=1

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147	1392	3546	P07872 A COX1_BA I	39.77	3	1	1	N	74679		Peroxisomal acyl-coenzyme A oxidase 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Acx1 PE=1 SV=1
148	1392	24950	tr E1LQC 1 E1LQC 1_RAT	39.77	3	1	1	N	74509		Acyl-coenzyme A oxidase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Acx1 PE=1 SV=3
149	1497	2819	OSPV04 MLEC_BA I	39.34	16	4	4	Y	32418		Malectin OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Mlec PE=2 SV=1
150	1500	3671	Q9Z269 VAPB_RAT	38.64	6	1	1	N	26916		Vesicle-associated membrane protein-associated protein B OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Vapb PE=1 SV=3
151	1644	3641	Q9BNZ7 SNX1_RAT	38.05	3	1	1	N	59044		Sorting nexin-1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Snx1 PE=1 SV=1
152	1207	28337	tr E1LN9 2 E1LN92 _BAT	37.95	3	1	1	Y	89352		AFG3 like matrix AAA peptidase subunit 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Afg3l2 PE=1 SV=1
153	2247	42118	PE2775 MTPN_BA I	37.81	8	1	1	Y	12861		Myotrophin OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Mtpn PE=1 SV=2
154	1963	42229	tr A0A815 7Z43 A0A 819Z743 _BAT	33.15	2	1	1	N	50137		Endophilin-B2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Sh3glb2 PE=1 SV=1
155	1341	2719	B66571 E S1_BAT	31.27	6	1	1	N	28173		ES1 protein homolog, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 PE=1 SV=2
156	274	961	P49088 A SNS_RAT	29.56	4	2	2	N	64247		Asparagine synthase [glutamine-hydrolyzing] OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Asns PE=2 SV=3
157	1735	26409	tr Q9U21 4 Q9U21 4_RAT	26.72	13	2	2	Y	31176		U1 small nuclear ribonucleoprotein A OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Snrpa PE=3 SV=1
158	81	23055	tr A0A0U 1RS25 A0 A0U1RS2 5_RAT	25.75	24	17	17	Y	123963		UPF1, RNA helicase and ATPase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Upf1 PE=1 SV=1
159	550	25812	tr A0A815 GSP1 A0 A81G35P1 _BAT	24.89	10	4	4	Y	46099		Heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein D-like OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hnrnpd1 PE=1 SV=1
160	608	27865	Q6AY85 SRP54_BA I	24.6	10	4	4	N	55705		Signal recognition particle subunit SRP54 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Srp54 PE=2 SV=1
161	516	26296	tr G3V75 2 G3V75 2_RAT	23.92	4	3	3	Y	115334		RNA cytidine acetyltransferase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Nat10 PE=1 SV=1
162	657	24019	tr A0A0G 2KAN7 A 0A0G2KA N7_BAT	23.29	3	1	1	N	65838		glutaminase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Gls PE=1 SV=1
163	995	61286	tr G3V72 7 G3V72 7_RAT	23.07	3	1	1	N	50989		RNA helicase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ddx47 PE=1 SV=2
164	1371	7163	Q6P704 LGUL_RAT	23.02	5	1	1	N	20820		Lactoylgutathione lyase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Glo1 PE=1 SV=3
165	555	1792	P17425 HMGCS1_B AT	22.82	5	2	2	N	57434		Hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA synthase, cytoplasmic OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hmgcs1 PE=1

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166	555	23743	I1AQA836 AH541A0 AR6AHS4 _BAT	22.82	5	2	2	N	57049		Hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA synthase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hmgcs1 PE=1 SV=1
167	1049	5949	O387D01 HEME_BA I	22.76	5	2	2	N	49278		Oxygen-dependent coproporphyrinogen-III oxidase, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Cpox PE=1 SV=1
168	2072	27708	I1AQA836 A4121A0A R6A412 _BAT	22.74	2	1	1	Y	70688		WD repeat domain 46 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Wdr46 PE=1 SV=1
169	2459	29280	P2926R13 HIDH_BAT	21.27	4	1	1	N	35303		3-hydroxyisobutyrate dehydrogenase, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hibadh PE=1 SV=3
170	932	26038	I1AQA836 2SGR1A0 AQC2JSG _BAT	21.18	9	2	2	N	25529		Adenylate kinase 2, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ak2 PE=3 SV=1
171	2655	6622	P6207R11 IM13_BAT	21.15	31	2	2	Y	10458		Mitochondrial import inner membrane translocase subunit Tim13 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Timm13 PE=3 SV=1
172	1127	25553	I1B2R27 41B2R27A _BAT	20.59	9	3	3	N	52133		U1 small nuclear ribonucleoprotein 70 kDa OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Snmp70 PE=1 SV=1
173	58	22918	I1G3V8T 41G3V8T4 _BAT	20.46	3	4	4	Y	126941		DNA damage-binding protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ddb1 PE=1 SV=1

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Table C.2: Proteins identified to be upregulated in CSP α -deficient lines 3 and 5 quantified by label-free proteomics

Up regulated	Protein Group	Protein ID	Accession	Significance	Coverage (%)	#Peptides	#Unique	PTM	Avg. Mass	Sample Profile	Group Profile	Description
1	50	24	P63039 C_H60_RAT	200	12	8	8	Y	60956			60 kDa heat shock protein, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hspd1 PE=1 SV=1
2	59	965	Q9JL3 ILF3_RAT	200	17	11	11	Y	95935			Interleukin enhancer-binding factor 3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ilf3 PE=1 SV=2
3	62	1100	P27008 P_ARP1_RAT	200	13	9	9	Y	112660			Poly [ADP-ribose] polymerase 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Parp1 PE=1 SV=4
4	68	368	Q388Q Ddx21_RAT	200	10	6	6	Y	85966			Nucleolar RNA helicase 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ddx21 PE=2 SV=1
5	80	22703	U1A0A8 ABZ71A0A_RAT	200	12	12	12	Y	150232			RNA helicase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Dhx9 PE=1 SV=1
6	101	1010	P0DMW0 HSP71A_RAT	200	6	3	3	Y	70185			Heat shock 70 kDa protein 1A OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hspa1a PE=1 SV=1
7	101	1011	P0DMW1 HSP71B_RAT	200	6	3	3	Y	70185			Heat shock 70 kDa protein 1B OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hspa1b PE=2 SV=1
8	154	3881	Q63588 PLST_RAT	200	11	4	4	Y	70680			Plastin-3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pls3 PE=1 SV=2
9	194	23737	U1A0A8 U371A0A_RAT	200	6	4	4	Y	83500			TNF receptor-associated protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Trap1 PE=1 SV=1
10	194	1919	Q5MH20 TRAP1_RAT	200	7	4	4	Y	80461			Heat shock protein 75 kDa, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Trap1 PE=1 SV=1
11	222	23392	U1Q568E U1Q568E4_RAT	200	14	7	7	Y	70874			Heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein R OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hnrnpr PE=1 SV=1
12	226	620	Q9QVC8 FKBP4_RAT	200	19	6	6	Y	51450			Peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase FKBP4 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Fkbp4 PE=1 SV=3
13	237	22942	U1M0R54 JMOR54_RAT	200	7	3	3	Y	47075			phosphopyruvate hydratase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Eno1 PE=1 SV=1
14	237	643	P04784 ENO1_RAT	200	7	3	3	Y	47128			Alpha-enolase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Eno1 PE=1 SV=4
15	295	1617	Q6AXS5 SERBP1_RAT	200	22	7	7	Y	44754			SERPINE1 mRNA-binding protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Serbp1 PE=1 SV=2
16	339	913	P07335 CKB_RAT	200	35	9	9	Y	42725			Creatine kinase B-type OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ckb PE=1 SV=2
17	340	1127	P60123 RUVB1_RAT	200	42	13	13	Y	50214			RuvB-like 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ruvb1 PE=1 SV=1
18	346	23163	U1E11NF1 E11NF1_RAT	200	25	5	5	Y	37430			Heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoproteins A2/B1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hnrnpa2b1 PE=1 SV=2

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19	354	23627	W1A0AR16 AEHR1A0 AR16AEHR _BAT	200	10	7	7	N	76655			Protein disulfide-isomerase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pdia4 PE=1 SV=1
20	354	23635	W1G3VBT Z1G3VBT7 _BAT	200	10	7	7	N	72748			Protein disulfide-isomerase A4 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pdia4 PE=3 SV=1
21	366	2634	P421231L DHR_BAT	200	15	4	4	N	36612			L-lactate dehydrogenase B chain OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ldhd PE=1 SV=2
22	494	24031	W1A0AR16 GKM01A0 AR16GKM 0_BAT	200	32	10	10	Y	40510			Interleukin enhancer binding factor 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ilf2 PE=1 SV=1
23	545	1817	Q086511S ERA_BAT	200	17	7	7	Y	56493			D-3-phosphoglycerate dehydrogenase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Phgdh PE=1 SV=3
24	558	26213	W1A0AR16 ASU61A0 AR16ASU6 _BAT	200	18	4	4	Y	38611			RNA-binding protein Luc7-like OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Luc7l2 PE=1 SV=1
25	672	24837	W1A0A0G ZK931A0 A0G2K93 1_BAT	200	12	4	4	N	40599			Phosphoserine aminotransferase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Psat1 PE=1 SV=2
26	738	24940	W1A0A0G ZK7K21A0 A0G2K7K 2_BAT	200	3	1	1	Y	66134			Apoptosis inducing factor, mitochondria associated 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Aifm1 PE=1 SV=1
27	749	23865	W1A0AR16 AQ01A0A R16A010_B AT	200	24	6	6	Y	54870			RB binding protein 4, chromatin remodeling factor OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rbbp7 PE=1 SV=1
28	749	23927	W1ARIS12I ARIS12_BA I	200	28	6	6	Y	47656			RB binding protein 4, chromatin remodeling factor OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rbbp4 PE=1 SV=1
29	785	25173	W1A0AR16 APW41A0 AR16APW 4_BAT	200	17	2	2	Y	11540			Tubulin-specific chaperone A OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Tbca PE=1 SV=1
30	797	26696	QRC1B9I BRE1B_B AT	200	2	1	1	N	113841			E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase BRE1B OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rnf40 PE=1 SV=1
31	797	26697	W1A0AR12 LW731A0 AR12LW73 _BAT	200	2	1	1	N	114290			E3 ubiquitin protein ligase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rnf40 PE=1 SV=1
32	828	25849	W1A0AR16 ZMN71A0 AR16ZMN7 _BAT	200	3	1	1	N	45983			Regulator of chromosome condensation OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rcc1 PE=1 SV=1
33	838	25867	W1M0RBO S1M0RBO 5_BAT	200	8	2	2	N	13908			Histone H2B OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=H2bu1 PE=3 SV=1
34	870	25746	W1A0A0G ZVA21A0 A0G2VA2 _BAT	200	19	4	4	N	35182			Heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein H3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hnrnp3 PE=4 SV=1
35	1219	27157	W1FERPU1 11FERPU11 _BAT	200	3	1	1	Y	61848			YTH domain-containing family protein OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ythdf2 PE=1 SV=4
36	1391	61217	W1A0AR16 G4151A0A R16G415_B AT	200	3	1	1	N	68696			G-rich RNA sequence binding factor 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Grsf1 PE=1 SV=1

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37	1415	27159	U1A0A8I6 ZVZ61A0 A815ZVZ6 _RAT	200	16	3	3	Y	27649			Ribosome assembly factor mrt4 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Mrt04 PE=3 SV=1
38	1494	61085	Q4EZT01S TMI2_RAT	200	11	2	2	N	38414			Stomatin-like protein 2, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Stomi2 PE=1 SV=1
39	1883	26999	U1A0A8I6 G7F41A0 A816G7F4 _RAT	200	30	3	3	N	13675			Endosulfine alpha OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ensa PE=1 SV=1
40		5056	Q4QB85I MEP50_R AT	200	4	1	1	Y	37076			Methylome protein WDR77 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Wdr77 PE=1 SV=1
41	2059	27720	U1Q5M92 Q1Q5M92 0_RAT	200	4	1	1	N	34745			EBNA1 binding protein 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ebna1bp2 PE=1 SV=1
42	2067	6265	Q8EPH2I MRP_RAT	200	11	2	2	N	19847			MARCKS-related protein OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Marcks1 PE=2 SV=3
43	2130	6921	Q498E0IT XD12_RAT	200	9	1	1	N	19019			Thioredoxin domain-containing protein 12 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Txndc12 PE=2 SV=2
44	2879	43536	Q3ZCL3I RUI1C_BA I	200	19	2	2	Y	17364			U1 small nuclear ribonucleoprotein C OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Snrpc PE=3 SV=1
45	195	22934	U1A9CMB 81A9CMB 8_RAT	156.54	6	4	4	Y	92815			DNA replication licensing factor MCM6 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Mcm6 PE=1 SV=1
46	193	23490	U1Q4KM7 11Q4KM7 1_RAT	153.53	18	11	11	N	75487			Splicing factor proline and glutamine rich OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Sfpq PE=1 SV=1
47	448	23495	U1A0A8I6 ALC1A0 A816ALC1 _RAT	153.53	16	5	5	N	38804			Heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein A1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hnrpa1 PE=4 SV=1
48	603	1264	P04182I OAT_RAT	153.53	17	5	5	Y	48333			Ornithine aminotransferase, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Oat PE=1 SV=1
49	3269	29011	U1D4ARM 51D4ARM 5_RAT	153.53	12	1	1	Y	10834			Small nuclear ribonucleoprotein E OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Snrpep2 PE=3 SV=1
50	965	23898	U1A0A8I2 QUA01A0 A812QUA 0_RAT	148.75	2	1	1	N	75871			Kinesin-like protein OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Kifc1 PE=3 SV=1
51	965	2151	Q5XB31KI EC1_RAT	148.75	2	1	1	N	76141			Kinesin-like protein KIFC1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Kifc1 PE=2 SV=1
52	2508	26883	U1A6KNE 71A6KNE 7_RAT	148.08	38	4	4	N	13282			Small nuclear ribonucleoprotein Sm D1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Snrpd1 PE=1 SV=1
53	196	2567	Q8FVM4I NONO_BA I	146.54	15	7	7	Y	54925			Non-POU domain-containing octamer-binding protein OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Nono PE=1 SV=3

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54	1120	42042	NIF1LTS8 IF1LTS8 RAT	146.12	4	1	1	N	60366			Importin subunit alpha OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Kpna6 PE=1 SV=4
55	1317	26628	RID4A72 RID4A720 RAT	140.51	8	2	2	Y	26023			Serine and arginine rich splicing factor 7 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Srsf7 PE=1 SV=2
56	216	23046	NIA0A816 A2061A0A 816A206 RAT	140.3	14	11	11	N	77095			Nucleolin OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ncl PE=1 SV=1
57	2144	27255	P557701N H2L1 RAT	137.19	34	5	5	Y	14174			NHP2-like protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Snu13 PE=2 SV=4
58	774	26154	NIG3VBB 8IG3VBB 8 RAT	135.17	9	3	3	Y	55045			DnaJ heat shock protein family (Hsp40) member C7 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Dnajc7 PE=4 SV=3
59	2814	42424	Q5B1X01N TM1A RAT	132.29	10	2	2	Y	25464			N-terminal Xaa-Pro-Lys N- methyltransferase 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ntmt1 PE=2 SV=3
60	1182	5822	P631641R SMN RAT	130.83	15	4	4	Y	24614			Small nuclear ribonucleoprotein-associated protein N OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Snrpn PE=1 SV=1
61	1182	5987	P171361R SMB RAT	130.83	16	4	4	Y	23856			Small nuclear ribonucleoprotein-associated protein B OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Snrpb PE=2 SV=2
62	1182	26518	NIA0A816 GLH21A0 816GLH2 RAT	130.83	16	4	4	Y	23312			Small nuclear ribonucleoprotein-associated protein OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Snrpb PE=3 SV=1
63	569	1098	Q637161 PRDX1 B AT	130.48	38	8	8	N	22109			Peroxiredoxin-1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Prdx1 PE=1 SV=1
64	1011	2999	Q920V51 PRDX4 B AT	130.02	26	4	4	Y	31007			Peroxiredoxin-4 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Prdx4 PE=2 SV=1
65	1011	24478	NIA0A816 A1331A0A 816A133 RAT	130.02	28	4	4	Y	28478			thioredoxin-dependent peroxiredoxin OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Prdx4 PE=1 SV=1
66	991	4626	Q5MR391 HAT1 RAT	128.42	9	3	3	Y	49241			Histone acetyltransferase type B catalytic subunit OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hat1 PE=2 SV=1
67	610	2264	P225091F RBL RAT	123.6	27	7	7	N	34222			rRNA 2'-O-methyltransferase fibrillarin OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Fbl PE=1 SV=2
68	610	24094	NIA0A812 UK981A0 812UK98 RAT	123.6	27	7	7	N	34564			Fibrillarin OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Fbl PE=1 SV=1
69	1536	61033	NIA0A0G 2KS21A0 A0G21KS2 RAT	121.04	2	1	1	Y	81317			Protein KRI1 homolog OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Kri1 PE=3 SV=2
70	435	24876	N1Q4K1K 71Q4K1K7 RAT	118.78	8	4	4	Y	65400			Nucleolar protein 56 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Nop56 PE=1 SV=1

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71	505	23834	R1F1LVV4 JF1LVV4 RAT	117.49	15	5	5	Y	56027			Regulator of chromosome condensation 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rcc2 PE=1 SV=2
72	710	3575	Q9J541H NRPO_BA I	113.13	15	4	4	Y	38218			Heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein D0 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hnrnpd PE=1 SV=2
73	1683	29552	R1D4ARM 71D4ARM 7_RAT	112.29	3	1	1	Y	82135			Condensin complex subunit 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ncap PE=1 SV=3
74	1893	61071	R1A0AR6 NR31AQA RRAIR3_B AT	110.97	4	1	1	N	46443			non-specific serine/threonine protein kinase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Vrk1 PE=1 SV=1
75	1765	61607	R1D3ZQV 81D3ZQV 8_RAT	108.84	4	1	1	Y	41097			PHD finger protein 6 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Phf6 PE=1 SV=1
76	2563	42285	R1D4A5T 11D4A5T1 _RAT	106.86	10	1	1	N	10119			Splicing factor 3B subunit 5 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=St3b5 PE=3 SV=1
77	2716	28583	R1ARSV1 IARISV1 RAT	105.89	7	1	1	N	38540			Protein phosphatase 1, regulatory (Inhibitor) subunit 8 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ppp1r8 PE=1 SV=1
78	734	3334	Q3T111JF 5A1_RAT	105.88	11	3	3	N	16832			Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 5A-1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Elf5a PE=1 SV=3
79	734	24892	R1A0ARL2 QBS31A0 ARL2ORS 3_RAT	105.88	10	3	3	N	17986			Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 5A OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Elf5a PE=1 SV=1
80	142	23320	R1D3ZP9 81D3ZP96 _RAT	104.76	20	13	13	Y	102143			DNA replication licensing factor MCM2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Mcm2 PE=1 SV=2
81	1314	11798	Q35095J NCDN_BA I	103.49	2	1	1	N	78923			Neurochondrin OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ncdn PE=1 SV=2
82	1813	30022	R1A0AR6 ANDR1A0 ARIRAND0 _RAT	103.02	3	2	2	N	85818			Dolichylidiphosphooligosaccharide--protein glycosyltransferase subunit STT3A OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Stt3a PE=1 SV=1
83	2199	61021	R1M0R0D 71M0R0D 7_RAT	100.27	10	1	1	N	22881			Chromatin target of PRMT1-like 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Chtopl1 PE=4 SV=2
84	832	41949	Q83892I CDC37_B AT	99.61	7	2	2	N	44510			Hsp90 co-chaperone Cdc37 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Cdc37 PE=1 SV=2
85	1866	30046	R1M0R9D 41M0R9D 4_RAT	98.58	7	2	2	N	21707			High mobility group box 3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hmgb3 PE=1 SV=1
86	960	27929	R1A0ARL2 ULJ11AQA BL2ULJ1 RAT	98.21	2	1	1	N	83445			Elongation factor G, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Gfm1 PE=1 SV=1
87	1053	2796	Q8CG55I RNZ2_RAT	96.82	1	1	1	Y	92340			Zinc phosphodiesterase ELAC protein 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Elac2 PE=1 SV=1

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88	386	1684	Q9QZ8R1 NOP58_B AT	96.46	18	7	7	Y	60071			Nucleolar protein 58 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Nop58 PE=1 SV=1
89	386	23692	N1A0A8I5 ZV871A0A B15ZV87 BAT	96.46	18	7	7	Y	59810			NOP58 ribonucleoprotein OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Nop58 PE=1 SV=1
90	1824	28147	Q6AXQ5I PDE12_B AT	96.2	3	1	1	N	67176			2',5'-phosphodiesterase 12 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pde12 PE=2 SV=1
91	287	1026	Q388Q2I F4A3_BAT	95.82	4	2	2	N	46841			Eukaryotic initiation factor 4A-III OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Eif4a3 PE=1 SV=1
92	2555	26948	N1D4AAT 41D4AAT4 _BAT	94.63	49	3	3	Y	9725			Sm protein F OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Snrpf PE=3 SV=1
93	2461	30110	N1G3V67 R1G3V67B _BAT	94.54	19	2	2	N	17143			DNA-directed RNA polymerases I, II, and III subunit RPABC3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rplp0 PE=1 SV=1
94	476	42020	N1A0A0G 2K7621A0 A0G2K76 2_BAT	94.3	8	4	4	N	71128			ATP binding cassette subfamily F member 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Abc2 PE=1 SV=1
95	1770	25810	N1D3ZUR R1D3ZUR _BAT	93.79	14	2	2	N	38090			Reticulocalbin 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rcn1 PE=3 SV=1
96	440	23101	N1G3V9Q R1G3V9Q _3_BAT	93.39	20	5	5	Y	48265			Heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein H1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hnrnp1 PE=1 SV=3
97	245	23573	N1B2GUX R1B2GUX _3_BAT	92.97	12	6	6	Y	82466			DNA replication licensing factor MCM5 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Mcm5 PE=1 SV=1
98	1808	26378	N1D3ZFB 21D3ZFB2 _BAT	92.55	7	2	2	N	58424			Luc7-like protein OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Luc7l3 PE=1 SV=1
99	252	23091	N1F7ELS2 JF7ELS2 _BAT	92.38	5	3	3	N	61744			T-complex protein 1 subunit zeta OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Cct6a PE=1 SV=1
100	952	5679	P630361D N1A1_BAT	91.9	31	7	7	Y	44868			DnaJ homolog subfamily A member 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Dnaj1 PE=1 SV=1
101	117	513	P276531C JTC_BAT	91.48	6	5	5	N	100996			C-1-tetrahydrofolate synthase, cytoplasmic OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Mthfd1 PE=1 SV=3
102	230	698	P858341E FTU1_BAT	90.25	19	8	8	N	49522			Elongation factor Tu, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Tufm PE=1 SV=1
103	2408	6981	P046461R I35A_BAT	89.79	21	3	3	N	12554			Large ribosomal subunit protein eL33 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rpl35a PE=1 SV=1
104	206	691	Q32PX71E JBP1_BA I	88.91	27	11	11	Y	67197			Far upstream element-binding protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Fubp1 PE=1 SV=1
105	123	218	P284801T CPA_BAT	88.44	41	20	20	Y	60360			T-complex protein 1 subunit alpha OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Tcp1 PE=1 SV=1

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106	1092	24849	U1Q99MI 51Q99MI5 _RAT	87.09	13	3	3	Y	33997			Spermidine synthase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Srm PE=1 SV=1
107	309	3996	P27981IH XK2 _RAT	84.96	8	5	5	Y	102544			Hexokinase-2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hk2 PE=1 SV=1
108	118	24623	U1AQA8I5 ZJ571AQA 8I5Z67 _R AT	83.82	12	8	8	Y	119866			FACT complex subunit OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Supt16h PE=3 SV=1
109	1466	25443	U1AQAAG 2FA21A0 AAG217A2 _RAT	83.77	17	3	3	N	25812			GrpE protein homolog OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Grpel1 PE=1 SV=1
110	1466	4292	P92526LG RPE1 _RAT	83.77	18	3	3	N	24297			GrpE protein homolog 1, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Grpel1 PE=1 SV=2
111	1985	29081	U1D32G4 31D32G4 3 _RAT	82.92	10	2	2	N	30226			NADH dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] iron-sulfur protein 3, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ndufs3 PE=3 SV=1
112	554	25567	U1B1WC4 91B1WC4 9 _RAT	82.34	18	7	7	Y	56785			Apoptosis inhibitor 5 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Api5 PE=1 SV=1
113	1651	26686	U1AQA8L2 QDL71A0 ABL2QDL 7 _RAT	82.11	2	1	1	N	73706			Nucleolar and coiled-body phosphoprotein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Nolc1 PE=1 SV=1
114	132	724	Q99PFS1E URP2 _BA I	81.76	18	10	10	Y	74227			Far upstream element-binding protein 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Khsrp PE=1 SV=1
115	132	23074	U1M0B96 11M0B96 1 _RAT	81.76	18	10	10	Y	74213			KH-type splicing regulatory protein OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Khsrp PE=1 SV=1
116	1511	27331	U1D4A1H 81D4A1H 8 _RAT	80.19	3	1	1	N	55810			PWP1 homolog, endonuclease OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pwp1 PE=1 SV=1
117	1118	25909	Q4QOW4 1HDAC1 _RAT	79.76	12	3	3	Y	55093			Histone deacetylase 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hdac1 PE=1 SV=1
118	536	1546	Q5XIG81S TRAP _RAT	79.1	33	8	8	Y	38456			Serine-threonine kinase receptor-associated protein OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Strap PE=1 SV=1
119	112	480	Q9IMY8L HNRPU _B AT	78.87	1	1	1	N	87733			Heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein U OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hnrpu PE=1 SV=1
120	54	22853	U1F1LM3 31F1LM33 _RAT	78.71	2	3	3	N	157404			Leucine-rich pentatricopeptide repeat containing OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Lrpprc PE=1 SV=3
121	1363	26239	U1M0B90 71M0B90 7 _RAT	78.66	40	3	3	Y	13916			Small nuclear ribonucleoprotein Sm D3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Snrpd3 PE=3 SV=1
122	1679	25973	U1Q9ET5 01Q9ET50 _RAT	78.17	5	2	2	N	54802			Staufen double-stranded RNA binding protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Stau1 PE=1 SV=1

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123	731	24361	N1A0A8L2 Q0U81A0 A8L2Q0U R_RAT	77.82	6	1	1	Y	37924			Pyroline-5- carboxylate reductase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pycr2 PE=1 SV=1
124	695	30726	Q9WTT7 SMP1_RA I	77.85	5	1	1	N	48049			eIF5-mimic protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Bzw2 PE=1 SV=1
125	466	24754	N1G3VRY R1G3VRY5 _RAT	77.21	9	6	6	N	133896			DNA-directed RNA polymerase subunit beta OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Polr2b PE=3 SV=1
126	2682	42941	N1G3V9M R1G3V9M R_RAT	76.86	5	1	1	N	40210			Family with sequence similarity 50, member A OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Fam50a PE=4 SV=1
127	1166	26739	N1D4AC W11D4AC W1_RAT	76.36	4	2	2	Y	85385			NOP2 nucleolar protein OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Nop2 PE=1 SV=3
128	1461	3661	Q9T181P TRP3_RAT	76.24	3	1	1	Y	56716			Polypyrimidine tract-binding protein 3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ptbp3 PE=2 SV=1
129	1516	3604	Q5U2U2 CRKL_RAT	76.22	18	4	4	Y	33865			Crk-like protein OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Crkl PE=1 SV=1
130	173	22891	N1F1MSV Z1F1MSV Z_RAT	76.18	24	16	16	N	103344			Aminopeptidase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Npepps PE=1 SV=1
131	1094	26741	N1Q5BK5 I05BK5 RAT	74.7	21	4	4	Y	20811			Chromobox 3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Cbx3 PE=1 SV=1
132	701	23980	Q5M7V8 TR150_RA I	74.28	4	3	3	N	108252			Thyroid hormone receptor-associated protein 3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Thrap3 PE=1 SV=1
133	751	2503	Q02874 H2AY_RAT	73.2	5	2	2	N	39040			Core histone macro-H2A.1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Macroh2a1 PE=1 SV=5
134	751	24319	N1A0A140 IAR41A0A I40TAR4 RAT	73.2	5	2	2	N	39199			Core histone macro-H2A OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Macroh2a1 PE=1 SV=2
135	184	23145	N1D3ZPB R1D3ZPB0 _RAT	72.59	12	10	10	Y	110214			Exportin-2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Cse1l PE=3 SV=1
136	370	23696	N1D3ZYS Z1D3ZYS7 _RAT	72.21	22	6	6	N	51787			G3BP stress granule assembly factor 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=G3bp1 PE=1 SV=1
137	826	3918	Q4KLL0IT CEA1_RAT	72.03	18	4	4	Y	33894			Transcription elongation factor A protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Tcea1 PE=1 SV=1
138	826	25240	N1A0A8L2 Q4Y01A0 A8L2Q4Y R_RAT	72.03	18	4	4	Y	34019			Transcription elongation factor OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Tcea1 PE=3 SV=1
139	3250	9876	Q9WVA1 TIM8A_RA I	71.78	11	1	1	Y	11042			Mitochondrial import inner membrane translocase subunit Tim8 A OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Timm8a PE=1 SV=1
140	635	4899	Q5XIH7IP HR2_RAT	71.21	31	8	8	N	33312			Prohibitin-2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Phb2 PE=1 SV=1
141	2558	27180	Q71Y31R S27_RAT	70.77	14	2	2	N	9461			Small ribosomal subunit protein eS27 OS=Rattus

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142	704	24787	W1D4A9L 21D4A9L2 _BAT	70.49	33	7	7	Y	27745			Serine/arginine-rich splicing factor 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Srsf1 PE=1 SV=1
143	285	23629	W1A0A8I5 ZME81A0 A8I5ZME8 _BAT	68.98	19	8	8	N	63726			Poly(U)-binding-splicing factor PUF60 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pu60 PE=1 SV=1
144	2509	26893	W1B2RYQ 51B2RYQ S_BAT	68.62	38	3	3	Y	12259			Enhancer of rudimentary homolog OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Erh PE=3 SV=1
145	2694	6641	P628591B S28_BAT	68.37	46	3	3	Y	7841			Small ribosomal subunit protein eS28 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rps28 PE=1 SV=1
146	1986	31107	W1D4A3I4 1D4A3I4 _BAT	68.03	19	2	2	N	17271			Transcription factor BTF3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Btf314 PE=3 SV=1
147	1464	24422	W1Q5B7B 1Q5B7B _BAT	67.85	19	4	4	Y	48962			Creatine kinase U-type, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ckmt1 PE=1 SV=1
148	98	447	Q68FQ01 TCPE _BAT	67.72	29	16	16	Y	59537			T-complex protein 1 subunit epsilon OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Cct5 PE=1 SV=1
149	32	21	P829951H S90A _BAT	67.63	26	19	19	Y	84815			Heat shock protein HSP 90-alpha OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hsp90aa1 PE=1 SV=3
150	1768	5689	Q75Q411 TOM22_B _AT	66.82	27	3	3	N	15491			Mitochondrial import receptor subunit TOM22 homolog OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Tom22 PE=1 SV=1
151	318	875	Q090731 ADT2 _BAT	66.6	8	3	3	Y	32901			ADP/ATP translocase 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Slc25a5 PE=1 SV=3
152	1467	25635	W1A0A8I6 GEL51A0 A8I6GEL5 _BAT	66	32	5	5	N	23954			40S ribosomal protein S7 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rps7 PE=1 SV=1
153	1467	4500	P620831B S7_BAT	66	35	5	5	N	22127			Small ribosomal subunit protein eS7 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rps7 PE=1 SV=1
154	1559	61034	Q27W011 RBM8A_B _AT	65.65	32	4	4	Y	19889			RNA-binding protein 8A OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rbm8a PE=1 SV=1
155	824	3737	P628041H 4_BAT	65.41	53	9	9	Y	11367			Histone H4 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=H4c2 PE=1 SV=2
156	165	22854	W1Q6P3V 81Q6P3V 8_BAT	65.37	30	12	12	Y	46154			Eukaryotic initiation factor 4A-1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Elf4a1 PE=3 SV=1
157	445	24064	W1B2RYI2 1B2RYI2 _BAT	64.67	12	5	5	Y	70492			Signal recognition particle subunit SRP68 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Srp68 PE=3 SV=1
158	2460	30032	W1D3ZTW Z1D3ZTW 7_BAT	64	4	1	1	N	34192			ATP synthase mitochondrial F1 complex assembly factor 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Atpaf2 PE=3 SV=1
159	201	382	Q086291I JF1B _BAT	63.65	17	10	10	Y	88956			Transcription intermediary factor 1-beta OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Trim28 PE=1 SV=2

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160	1822	26882	U1M0RBB U1M0RBB 1_BAT	62.66	23	4	4	N	27027			Aly/REF export factor OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Alyref PE=4 SV=3
161	1361	25682	U1D4A5Y R1D4A5Y6 _BAT	62.44	49	7	7	Y	19301			N-alpha-acetyltransferase 50 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Naa50 PE=3 SV=1
162	1862	27344	U1D3Z95 D3Z95 _BAT	62.24	30	3	3	Y	12410			60S ribosomal protein L36 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rpl38l3 PE=1 SV=1
163	506	1749	Q63525I NUDC_BA I	61.76	13	4	4	N	38412			Nuclear migration protein nudC OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Nudc PE=1 SV=1
164	506	23712	U1A0A0G 2K0VBIAD A0G2K0V _B_BAT	61.76	14	4	4	N	36808			Nuclear distribution C, dynein complex regulator OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Nudc PE=1 SV=2
165	308	1089	P30349I KHA4_BAT	60.5	14	6	6	Y	69089			Leukotriene A-4 hydrolase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Lta4h PE=1 SV=3
166	644	27030	P55268I SBAD_BA I	60.41	2	1	1	Y	129911			Double-stranded RNA-specific adenosine deaminase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Adar PE=1 SV=1
167	422	24020	U1M0RBF Q1M0RBF 0_BAT	60.11	3	1	1	Y	104294			Scaffold attachment factor B OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Safb PE=1 SV=2
168	401	22980	U1D3ZAN 3D3ZAN 3_BAT	59.98	9	6	6	N	90573			Glucosidase II alpha subunit OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ganab PE=1 SV=1
169	2502	26055	U1M0R83 51M0R83 5_BAT	59.68	32	3	3	Y	14794			Splicing factor 3B, subunit 6 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Sf3b6 PE=1 SV=3
170	980	1955	Q6AYK6I CYBP_BA I	57.97	16	4	4	Y	26541			Calcyclin-binding protein OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Cacybp PE=1 SV=1
171	43	22825	U1E9PT66 IE9PT66 _BAT	57.82	18	15	15	Y	135550			Splicing factor 3B subunit 3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Sf3b3 PE=1 SV=2
172	1178	2548	P62718I L18A_BAT	57.7	12	2	2	Y	20732			Large ribosomal subunit protein eL20 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rpl18a PE=1 SV=1
173	541	25467	U1D3ZDD 7D3ZDD 7_BAT	57.67	2	1	1	N	73725			Spermatid perinuclear RNA- binding protein OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Strbp PE=4 SV=1
174	1632	25046	U1B1WC5 Q1B1WC5 0_BAT	56.55	14	6	6	Y	68331			EWS RNA-binding protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ewsr1 PE=3 SV=1
175	1920	42794	Q6AY65I ARFP2_BA I	55.75	5	1	1	N	37773			Arfaptin-2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Arfp2 PE=2 SV=1
176	829	3944	Q60729I NAMPT_BA AT	55.36	14	4	4	N	55438			Nicotinamide phosphoribosyltransferase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Nampt PE=1 SV=1
177	1771	25825	U1G3V8E 51G3V8E5 _BAT	55.15	11	3	3	N	37920			Mitochondrial import receptor subunit TOM40 homolog OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Tomm40 PE=3 SV=1

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178	1738	27476	U1M0R56 S1M0R56 S_RAT	55.05	9	2	2	N	35280		WD repeat domain 82 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Wdr82 PE=1 SV=3
179	863	42254	U1Q3B7U 11Q3B7U 1_RAT	54.3	2	1	1	N	65754		MAGE family member D2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Maged2 PE=1 SV=1
180	482	25440	U1D4A0E R1D4A0E8 _RAT	54.26	9	6	6	Y	72695		Protein arginine N-methyltransferase 5 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Prmt5 PE=3 SV=1
181	584	26501	U1A0A0H 2UHZ41A A0H2UH Z4_RAT	54.01	18	4	4	N	36281		Zinc finger Ran-binding domain-containing protein 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Zranb2 PE=1 SV=2
182	602	25741	U1D3ZU5 1D3ZU5 _RAT	53.76	1	1	1	N	120503		SWI/SNF related, matrix associated, actin dependent regulator of chromatin, subfamily c, member 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Smarcc1 PE=1 SV=1
183	250	789	E9PU2811 MDH2_BA I	53.3	28	10	10	Y	55815		Inosine-5'-monophosphate dehydrogenase 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Impdh2 PE=1 SV=1
184	1927	25117	U1D4ADF S1D4ADF S_RAT	53.18	38	4	4	N	14204		Programmed cell death 5 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pdcd5 PE=1 SV=1
185	1407	27536	Q548891 RPA1_RAT	52.1	1	1	1	Y	194191		DNA-directed RNA polymerase I subunit RPA1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Polr1a PE=1 SV=1
186	2321	7495	Q4KLF81A RPC5_BA I	51.06	31	2	2	Y	16320		Actin-related protein 2/3 complex subunit 5 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Arpc5 PE=1 SV=3
187	232	565	P503991G DIR_RAT	50.94	18	6	6	Y	50537		Rab GDP dissociation inhibitor beta OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Gdi2 PE=1 SV=2
188	477	1675	Q5X1321C AP2B_RAT	50.76	39	9	9	Y	30629		F-actin-capping protein subunit beta OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Capzb PE=1 SV=1
189	259	593	P478601P EKAP_RAT	50.65	2	1	1	Y	85720		ATP-dependent 6-phosphofructokinase, platelet type OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pfkp PE=1 SV=2
190	259	22883	U1A0A8I5 ZYA21A0A R157YA2 _RAT	50.65	2	1	1	Y	80431		6-phosphofructokinase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pfkp PE=1 SV=1
191	414	716	Q091751 AMPB_BA I	50.03	7	3	3	Y	72620		Aminopeptidase B OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rnpep PE=1 SV=2
192	414	23024	U1G3V8V 11G3V8V 1_RAT	50.03	7	3	3	Y	72689		Arginyl aminopeptidase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Rnpep PE=3 SV=1
193	74	22713	U1A0A8I6 A0A21A0A R16A0A2 _RAT	49.81	3	6	6	N	293233		Serine/arginine repetitive matrix 2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Srrm2 PE=1 SV=1
194	2355	43367	Q9Z1421T MM33_BA I	49.21	5	1	1	N	27983		Transmembrane protein 33 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Tmem33 PE=2 SV=1

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195	2324	8338	Q8PCT5 PDRP1_B AI	49.21	17	2	2	N	30529			Polyglutamine-binding protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pqbp1 PE=2 SV=1
196	992	25829	W1A0AR16 Y7K91A0A 815Y7K9 BAT	49.18	4	2	2	N	77615			Metadherin OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Mtdh PE=4 SV=1
197	204	22921	W1D3Z94 11D3Z941 _BAT	49.01	7	5	5	Y	101582			Methionine--tRNA ligase, cytoplasmic OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Mars1 PE=1 SV=1
198	2511	27280	W1D4A9Z 81D4A9Z8 _BAT	48.69	7	1	1	N	25109			Chromatin modifying protein 4B-like 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Chmp4b1 PE=3 SV=1
199	89	22848	W1Q6AY11 1Q6AY11 _BAT	48.67	25	14	14	Y	69239			Probable ATP-dependent RNA helicase DDX5 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ddx5 PE=1 SV=1
200	1304	3449	P70580 GRC1_RA I	48.09	8	2	2	N	21598			Membrane-associated progesterone receptor component 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pgrmc1 PE=1 SV=3
201	332	25491	W1A0AR16 A1581A0A 816A158 _BAT	47.6	2	2	2	Y	246089			Ankyrin repeat domain 17 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ankrd17 PE=1 SV=1
202	1984	28021	W1A0AR16 A5121A0A 816A512 _AI	47.15	3	1	1	N	67513			Pre-mRNA 3'-end-processing factor FIP1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Fip11 PE=1 SV=1
203	56	115	Q5U3001 UBA1_RA I	47.14	14	10	10	Y	117788			Ubiquitin-like modifier-activating enzyme 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Uba1 PE=1 SV=1
204	861	24880	W1Q7TQ9 01Q7TQ9 0_BAT	46.81	6	3	3	Y	93847			Alcohol dehydrogenase class-3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Adh4 PE=1 SV=1
205	39	22745	W1D3ZU1 31D3ZU1 3_BAT	46.49	8	10	10	N	175704			Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4 gamma 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=EIF4g1 PE=1 SV=1
206	39	22747	W1M0RD0 31M0RD0 3_BAT	46.49	8	10	10	N	180218			Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4 gamma 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=EIF4g1 PE=1 SV=2
207	1074	29236	W1F1MA0 41F1MA0 4_BAT	45.96	2	1	1	N	99408			WD repeat domain 36 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Wdr36 PE=1 SV=4
208	269	25259	W1D3ZD8 91D3ZD8 9_BAT	45.83	9	5	5	Y	101010			N(alpha)-acetyltransferase 15, NatA auxiliary subunit OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Naa15 PE=1 SV=2
209	2111	27133	W1A0AR16 ZMG41A0 A815ZMG4 _BAT	45.82	9	2	2	N	28299			Thioredoxin-dependent peroxide reductase, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Prdx3 PE=3 SV=1
210	2185	27164	W1A0AR16 G1491A0A 816G149 _AI	45.11	26	4	4	Y	16272			Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4C OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=EIF1ax PE=1 SV=1

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211	2185	27185	U1A0ARIG AR71A0A RIGAR17_R AT	45.11	25	4	4	Y	16676			Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4C OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Elf1ax PE=1 SV=1
212	1181	4272	Q5XTR1M CCB_RAT	44.97	6	2	2	Y	61517			Methylcrotonoyl-CoA carboxylase beta chain, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Mccc2 PE=2 SV=1
213	1943	61238	U1A0ARIG GAM21A0 ARIGGAM 2_RAT	44.37	8	1	1	N	24497			Small nuclear ribonucleoprotein polypeptide B2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Snrbp2 PE=1 SV=1
214	1305	7172	Q91V33I KHDR1_R AT	44.19	3	1	1	N	48315			KH domain-containing, RNA-binding, signal transduction-associated protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Khdrbs1 PE=1 SV=1
215	517	1658	P04961P CNA_RAT	44.05	44	9	9	Y	28749			Proliferating cell nuclear antigen OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pcna PE=1 SV=1
216	439	3857	Q04931S SRP1_RAT	43.98	14	8	8	Y	80915			FACT complex subunit SSRP1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ssrp1 PE=1 SV=2
217	439	25162	U1A0ARL2 RBI01A0A R12RBI0 RAT	43.98	13	8	8	Y	91414			FACT complex subunit SSRP1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ssrp1 PE=1 SV=1
218	156	23083	U1G3V6R 11G3V6R1 RAT	43.84	2	1	1	N	96571			DNA replication licensing factor MCM4 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Mcm4 PE=1 SV=1
219	1495	61596	U1D3ZKG 11D3ZKG 1_RAT	43.62	2	1	1	N	92036			Methylmalonyl-CoA mutase, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Mmut PE=1 SV=2
220	1290	61057	U1D3ZTY9 1D3ZTY9 RAT	42.75	2	1	1	N	94447			Nuclear VCP-like OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Nvl PE=1 SV=1
221	1554	26273	U1A0ARIS YR751A0A RISYR75 RAT	42.55	12	2	2	N	31401			Calponin OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Cnn3 PE=1 SV=1
222	1554	5131	P373971C NN3_RAT	42.55	10	2	2	N	36435			Calponin-3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Cnn3 PE=1 SV=1
223	337	864	Q5U216I DX39A_R AT	40.14	7	3	3	Y	49110			ATP-dependent RNA helicase DDX39A OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ddx39a PE=2 SV=1
224	337	23159	U1A0ARIS ZVUG1A0 ARISZVUG RAT	40.14	7	3	3	Y	51174			RNA helicase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ddx39a PE=1 SV=1
225	1701	28941	U1D3ZXS R1D3ZXS8 RAT	39.82	27	3	3	N	15810			E2 ubiquitin-conjugating enzyme OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ube2k PE=4 SV=2
226	1908	27306	U1A0ARIG AL511A0A RIGAL51 RAT	39.37	3	1	1	Y	51980			CUGBP, Elav-like family member 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Celf1 PE=1 SV=1
227	1908	42485	Q4CQT3I CELF1_BA I	39.37	3	1	1	Y	52205			CUGBP Elav-like family member 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Celf1 PE=2 SV=1

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228	1338	42236	R1A0AR05 ZNN21A0 AB15ZNN2 _RAT	39.34	2	1	1	N	82269			TLE family member 3, transcriptional corepressor OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Tle3 PE=1 SV=1
229	1338	42237	Q9JIT31L E3_RAT	39.34	2	1	1	N	82844			Transducin-like enhancer protein 3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Tle3 PE=1 SV=1
230	2145	27556	R1A0AR06 A2P11A0A R6A2P1 _RAT	38.77	4	1	1	N	24461			Serine and arginine rich splicing factor 3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Srsf3 PE=3 SV=1
231	2145	27554	R1A0AR05 ZSN81A0 AB15ZSN8 _RAT	38.77	7	1	1	N	14518			RRM domain-containing protein OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=AABR07026797.1 PE=3 SV=1
232	492	23530	R1Q6P6I R1Q6P6I9 _RAT	37.98	3	1	1	N	57837			Importin subunit alpha OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Kpna2 PE=1 SV=1
233	2247	42118	P627751 MTPN_BA I	37.81	8	1	1	Y	12861			Myotrophin OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Mtpn PE=1 SV=2
234	739	26354	R1D4AR0 Z1D4AR0 _RAT	37.38	14	4	4	N	61464			SNW domain-containing protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Snw1 PE=1 SV=1
235	2203	42328	R1D4A1V Z1D4A1V _RAT	36.67	14	3	3	N	25349			MOB kinase activator 1B OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Mob1b PE=4 SV=2
236	2203	100473	Q3T1I91M QB1A_BA I	36.67	14	3	3	N	25080			MOB kinase activator 1A OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Mob1a PE=2 SV=3
237	1872	3397	Q5H0D71P FPD_BAT	35.97	5	2	2	Y	54751			Xaa-Pro dipeptidase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pepd PE=2 SV=1
238	1197	41904	Q3KR59J UBP10_B AT	35.95	6	3	3	N	87311			Ubiquitin carboxyl-terminal hydrolase 10 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Usp10 PE=1 SV=1
239	1417	81298	Q5EB59J MED23_B AT	35.79	2	2	2	N	156231			Mediator of RNA polymerase II transcription subunit 23 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Med23 PE=2 SV=2
240	321	29760	R1F7FMJ3 JF7FMJ3 _RAT	35.42	3	1	1	N	88723			Cullin 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Cul1 PE=1 SV=1
241	1502	5098	P839531I MA5_BAT	35.23	4	1	1	N	60137			Importin subunit alpha-5 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Kpna1 PE=1 SV=1
242	1502	26051	R1Q56R2 Q1Q56R2 _RAT	35.23	4	1	1	N	60197			Importin subunit alpha OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Kpna1 PE=3 SV=1
243	2055	42226	R1H267I SNX5_BAT	34.86	7	2	2	Y	46793			Sorting nexin-5 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Snx5 PE=1 SV=1
244	501	25145	R1E9PS14 JF9PS14 _RAT	34.64	2	2	2	N	146442			Sperm associated antigen 9 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Spag9 PE=1 SV=3
245	1237	25332	R1D3ZAX S1D3ZAX5 _RAT	34.12	2	2	2	Y	107180			Calcium homeostasis endoplasmic reticulum protein OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Cherp PE=1 SV=3

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246	935	32257	U1M0B62 31M0B62 3_RAT	34.06	2	1	1	N	74152			Nucleolar GTP-binding protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Gtpp4 PE=1 SV=2
247	1612	26457	P219131S DHB_RAT	33.96	4	1	1	N	31830			Succinate dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] iron-sulfur subunit, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Sdhb PE=2 SV=2
248	877	26814	U1D4A2P 11D4A2P 1_RAT	33.84	1	1	1	N	133101			Cell division cycle and apoptosis regulator 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ccar1 PE=1 SV=3
249	564	24132	U1D4A99 41D4A994 _RAT	33.69	5	4	4	N	111185			ER membrane protein complex subunit 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Emc1 PE=1 SV=1
250	1631	6860	Q359641S H3G1_RA I	33.47	5	1	1	N	41492			Endophilin-A2 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Sh3g1 PE=1 SV=1
251	699	34988	U1A0A01 1BB231A0 A0U1BBZ 3_RAT	32.88	2	1	1	N	88420			NFKB repressing factor OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Nikf PE=3 SV=3
252	1962	29250	Q5P0Q21 WRP11_B AT	32.83	2	1	1	N	69996			WW domain-binding protein 11 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Wbp11 PE=1 SV=1
253	1555	27503	U1B2GV4 11B2GV4 1_RAT	32.59	6	2	2	N	65245			ubiquitinyl hydrolase 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Usp39 PE=1 SV=1
254	1894	81316	U1A0A815 Y1761A0A 815Y176 RAT	32.54	2	1	1	N	75692			Ran-binding protein 9 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ranbp9 PE=1 SV=1
255	459	28245	U1A0A0G 2K9L91A0 A0G2K9L 9_RAT	32.35	0	1	1	N	630068			Midasin OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Mdn1 PE=1 SV=2
256	590	24357	U1Q4KL7 1Q4KL7 RAT	31.7	22	8	8	Y	58842			Splicing factor 3a, subunit 3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Sf3a3 PE=1 SV=1
257	605	3163	Q6AVS31 DEK_RAT	30.89	6	2	2	Y	42892			Protein DEK OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Dek PE=1 SV=1
258	605	24753	U1A0A816 A9D81A0 A816A9D8 _RAT	30.89	6	2	2	Y	44266			DEK proto-oncogene OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Dek PE=1 SV=1
259	1248	3192	Q887671 PARK7_RA I	30.43	4	1	1	N	19974			Parkinson disease protein 7 homolog OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Park7 PE=1 SV=1
260	2805	29376	U1D4ACM 21D4ACM 2_RAT	29.99	8	1	1	N	23539			Mitotic arrest deficient 2 like 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Mad211 PE=3 SV=1
261	274	961	P490881A SNS_RAT	29.56	4	2	2	N	64247			Asparagine synthetase [glutamine-hydrolyzing] OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Asns PE=2 SV=3
262	2527	42564	Q5PPH01 ENOPH_B AT	29.52	13	2	2	Y	28875			Enolase-phosphatase E1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Enoph1 PE=2 SV=1
263	2689	61443	U1A0A0G 21V841A0 A0G21V84 _RAT	29.24	3	1	1	Y	60289			alanine transaminase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Gpt2 PE=1 SV=1

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264	796	24301	W1D4A91 41D4A914 _BAT	28.91	7	4	4	Y	108647			5'-3' exoribonuclease OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Xrn2 PE=1 SV=3
265	996	2376	QRWUC8 JPLRG1_R _AT	27.92	4	1	1	Y	57189			Pleiotropic regulator 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Plrg1 PE=2 SV=1
266	1476	42607	W1A0A0G 2IXM51A0 A0G2IXM _5_BAT	27.73	3	1	1	N	44264			DNA polymerase delta interacting protein 3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Pol3ip3 PE=1 SV=2
267	1735	26409	W1Q5U21 41Q5U21 _4_BAT	26.72	13	2	2	Y	31176			U1 small nuclear ribonucleoprotein A OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Snrpa PE=3 SV=1
268	81	23055	W1A0A0U 1RS251A0 A0U1RS2 _5_BAT	25.75	24	17	17	Y	123953			UPF1, RNA helicase and ATPase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Upf1 PE=1 SV=1
269	550	25812	W1A0A8I6 G5P11A0 A8I6G5P1 _BAT	24.89	10	4	4	Y	48099			Heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein D-like OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hnmpdl PE=1 SV=1
270	608	27865	Q6AYB51 SRP54_BA _I	24.6	10	4	4	N	55705			Signal recognition particle subunit SRP54 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Srp54 PE=2 SV=1
271	516	26296	W1G3V75 21G3V752 _BAT	23.92	4	3	3	Y	115334			RNA cytidine acetyltransferase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Nat10 PE=1 SV=1
272	657	24019	W1A0A0G 2KAN71A A0AG2KA _N7_BAT	23.29	3	1	1	N	65838			glutaminase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Gls PE=1 SV=1
273	995	61286	W1G3V72 71G3V727 _BAT	23.07	3	1	1	N	50989			RNA helicase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ddx47 PE=1 SV=2
274	1371	7163	Q8P7Q41 LGIJL_BAT	23.02	5	1	1	N	20820			Lactoylglutathione lyase OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Glo1 PE=1 SV=3
275	555	1792	P174251H MCS1_BA _I	22.82	5	2	2	N	57434			Hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA synthase, cytoplasmic OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Hmgcs1 PE=1 SV=1
276	1049	5949	Q3B7D01 HEM6_BA _I	22.76	5	2	2	N	49278			Oxygen-dependent coproporphyrinogen-III oxidase, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Cpox PE=1 SV=1
277	2072	27708	W1A0A8I6 A4121A0A 8I6A412 _BAT	22.74	2	1	1	Y	70688			WD repeat domain 46 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Wdr46 PE=1 SV=1
278	2459	29280	P2926813 H1DH_BAT	21.27	4	1	1	N	35303			3-hydroxyisobutyrate dehydrogenase, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=H1dhdh PE=1 SV=3
279	932	26038	W1A0A0G 2ISG61A0 A0G2ISG6 _BAT	21.18	9	2	2	N	25529			Adenylate kinase 2, mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ak2 PE=3 SV=1
280	2655	6622	P6207811 IM13_BAT	21.15	31	2	2	Y	10458			Mitochondrial import inner membrane translocase subunit Tim13 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Timm13 PE=3 SV=1

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281	1127	25553	U1B2B274 U1B2B274 _RAT	20.59	9	3	3	N	52133			U1 small nuclear ribonucleoprotein 70 kDa OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Snmp70 PE=1 SV=1
282	58	22918	U1G3V8T U1G3V8T4 _RAT	20.46	3	4	4	Y	126941			DNA damage-binding protein 1 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ddb1 PE=1 SV=1
283	3172	11694	U61078IU U61078IU _RAT	20.1	7	1	1	N	16687			Ubiquitin-conjugating enzyme E2 D3 OS=Rattus norvegicus OX=10116 GN=Ube2d3 PE=2 SV=1

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